

Bavarian News

HONORING OUR FALLEN GARRISON GRAFENWOEHR COMMUNITY GATHERS TO HONOR 2SCR SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN COMBAT
■ PAGE 6

ANSBACH LOCAL SOLDIERS PARTICIPATE IN SURVEY TO HELP FIGURE COLA RATES
■ PAGE 20

BAMBERG GARRISON COMMANDER TALKS ABOUT UPCOMING CHANGES
■ PAGE 22

SCHWEINFURT DONT MISS "THIS ONE'S FOR YOU" B.O.S.S. EVENT SLATED FOR SINGLE SOLDIERS TOMORROW
■ PAGE 26

GRAFENWOEHR GARRISON'S HOURLY CARE IS IN SHORT SUPPLY. FIND OUT WHAT IS BEING DONE AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP!
■ PAGE 3

INDEX

■ **Travel Page:** Never heard of Corfu? It's a 274-square mile tropical paradise waiting for you.
PAGE 17

■ **What's Happening:** See what's going on in your community
PAGES 14-15

■ **Sports Section:** Homecoming Coverage
PAGES 28-29



Vilseck Falcons dominate Aviano Saints, 44-6, during Oct. 13 homecoming game

Vilseck's Jamal Grant, #88, gets a victory lift after the 44-6 shutout against the Aviano (Italy) Saints. See Page 28 for more photos.

Garmisch command transitions to Graf

by **JOHN REESE**
USAG Garmisch Public Affairs

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr officially took charge of the Garmisch military area from USAG Stuttgart during a transition of authority ceremony in Garmisch Oct. 2.

Brig. Gen. David Hogg, commander of 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, and about 85 U.S. and German military and civilian members attended the ceremony at Pete Burke Community Center.

The command transition from

Stuttgart, located in the neighboring state of Schwabia, to Grafenwoehr in Bavaria is part of the Army's transformation in Europe. Garmisch had been under the authority of Stuttgart since 1994.

"My staff and I are excited to be able to assist another area in Bavaria and experience even more of the excellent German-American relations and host-nation cooperation we enjoy here," said Col. Brian Boyle, commander of USAG Grafenwoehr.

"Our small garrison family in Garmisch is a tight-knit one, and as I

like to say, we're setting the standards that make people and units say, 'I'm glad I live here!'" said Karin Santos, manager of USAG Garmisch. "There are few places in the world as special as Garmisch."

Santos thanked the Stuttgart leadership for their years of support to the small and vibrant garrison nestled at the foot of the Alps.

USAG Garmisch is home to the George C. Marshall Center, the NATO School at Oberammergau, the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort and the

See **USAG GRAF** Page 4



Photo by Drew Benson
USAG Garmisch, which had been under the authority of USAG Stuttgart since 1994, now falls under USAG Grafenwoehr.

Halloween activities offered throughout garrison



File photo

by **BILYANA ATOVA**
Staff writer

Decorating your home, preparing your child's costumes, carving the jack-o'-lantern, it all tickles the imagination and it is an unforgettable time for the young and old.

Once again, the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr is providing several opportunities for children, or the child in you, to enjoy this fall holiday. Activities will be held at the Garrison Grafenwoehr Library, the chapels, a haunted house hosted by the Joint Multinational Training Command Family Readiness Group, and much more. (See JMTTC and Chapel fliers on Page 3)

But along with the excitement comes a need for increased safety awareness. (see Page 4 tips)

"The most important thing is the child to be able to see and to be seen," said Garrison Grafenwoehr Safety Director Michael Schwarz. "Parents should think about how they are decorating their kids," he said, explaining that reflective, flame resistant clothing is the best choice, along with masks that do not obscure the wearer's vision.

Schwarz also suggested that Families who are handing out candy should make sure their walkways are clear of obstacles to prevent falls.

He also suggested parents bring their children on post for trick-or-treating and asks parents to report suspicious candy handouts or people to the military police, whether you or on or off post.

Whatever your plans for this sweet and scary holiday, be safe and enjoy!

Library
OCT. 23 Story Time - Dress Up/Costumes from 12:30-1 p.m.
Recommended Books: The Costume Copycat by Maryann Macdonald; The Costume Party by Victoria Chess; The Hallo-Wiener by Dav Pilkey
Craft Activity: Creating a fun Halloween mask
OCT. 30 Story Time - PUMPKINS & WITCHES from 12:30-1 p.m.
Recommended Books: Big Pumpkin by Erica Silverman; Room On The Broom by Julia Donaldson; The Fierce Yellow Pumpkin by Margaret Wise Brown
CRAFT ACTIVITY: crafting pumpkin decorations

Vilseck home to Warrior Transition Unit

by **BILYANA ATOVA**
Staff writer

In keeping with the Army warrior ethos "I will never leave a fallen comrade behind," Warrior Transition Units will be activated as part of the new Army Medical Action Plan announced by the Department of Defense in June.

Thanks to the creation of WTUs, Soldiers who need extended medical care will not have to go back to the U.S., but instead can receive care and heal in Europe.

WTUs are a result of the growing number of medical evaluation boards and the increasingly high survival rate of service members wounded in Iraq

and Afghanistan. Due to these factors, "we have a lot of people we need to take care of," said U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle during a Sept. 26 community briefing to explain the WTU concept.

"The purpose of the WTU is to provide some leadership and remove the bureaucracy (to obtain health care and other services) so we make sure that the Soldier can concentrate on getting better," Boyle said.

WTU is the first program that is entirely focused on the wounded Soldiers by developing an effective organization that takes care of the Soldier in transition so they can focus on healing.

See **WOUNDED** Page 4



Courtesy photo
Lt. Col. Tony Aguto, commander of 4th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, speaks to vendors during the Mashahda Market opening in central Baghdad Sept. 30.

Q&A

What are *your* favorite *fall* activities?



Neal Hill

"The return of football, the fall colors, and the advent of the holiday season."

Jennifer Rourke
"Raking leaves, and jumping in them."



Brandi Weaver

"Watching my son play football and I like to go hiking and being with my kids in general."

Spc. Trevor Farr
"I like the change of season and the colors and the thought that snow is coming."



Sgt. Rodney Bing
"Fishing here on post and in the Grafenwoehr area."

Sarah Williams
"I like playing soccer with my friends."



Matthew Driessen
"I like to go to the half-pipe on my bike and practice tricks."

Staff Sgt. Richard Aquino
"I get to watch a lot of football and let me just say, go Chargers!"



Warrior Transition Unit, homes, flu immunizations on the way

Boy talk about a Bavarian News jinx. My mythical Final Four of last column? Three of the four have a loss and one of them has two. Even my alma mater is at 3-3. You just have to love college football... and off to the column.

WTU/SFAC

Last week I hosted a meeting with the community to discuss the Warrior Transition Unit and The Soldier and Family Assistance Center. A combination of the long term Medical evaluation process, the incredible success of our medical community saving lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and the challenges of Walter Reed has led the Army to develop a program called the WTU.

In short, the idea is to develop a chain of command to oversee these Soldiers, focus all community resources to take care of these WTUs, and allow them to concentrate on recovery.

The SFAC is a center to support these Soldiers and their Families while they get better. Because we are overseas, we are doing things slightly different than in CONUS.

Currently, we are assessing our population



to determine candidates for the WTU. We are ready to execute now and will improve our capacities over time.

WTUs will have priority for services throughout the community and this may cause a delay in services to the rest of our customers. However, this potential delay is a projection and we will monitor this closely to ensure we continue to provide needed services to all of our customers.

Please refer to the accompanying article in this edition of the Bavarian News and to the garrison home page at <http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/> for copies of the slides and notes pages from the town meeting.

Flu shots

It's that time of the year again – Flu season. This is the first notice that once again the local military treatment facilities will be providing flu shots once they receive the vaccinations.

The primary goal of the influenza vaccine immunization program is to vaccinate the total force. USAREUR will implement a mandatory influenza program for all active duty personnel and strongly recommends all other Tricare beneficiaries receive the vaccination.

The priority is listed below:

■ A: Deployed or deploying Soldiers or civilians.

■ B: Healthcare workers, healthy people aged 50 and above, medically high risk personnel, and contacts of medically high risk personnel, as defined in Prevention and

Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices MMWR 2007; 56 (RR 06) (13 Jul 07): 1-54 section on target groups for vaccination: available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5606a1.htm>.

■ C: All other active duty, activated reserve component, and all Tricare beneficiaries with emphasis on children aged 5-59 months will begin vaccinations once priority A and B are vaccinated.

As the vaccine comes in, we will let you know and we strongly recommend Soldiers and their Family members receive the vaccine.

Housing

Many of you may remember the challenges we had with housing in the community. Since April, we have been working with the owners of the Fitzhum homes to rectify these challenges. Soon these homes will be ready for a final check and we can start offering them again to our community.

Remember German homes are built differently than CONUS homes. You must ventilate. Continue to follow ventilation guidelines and help me continue to make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

First day horrors same for school, work, or even having a new baby



JACKIE ECKHART
On the Homefront

No one took my picture. I didn't get new shoes. But at least when I got home from my first day of school, no one asked me if I was excited about my new classes or if I'd made any friends. Instead my daughter took one look at me and asked, "Feel stupid yet?"

"Yup," I said, glaring at the tote bag I'd just tossed on the counter. A tote bag. Everyone else in the class had a backpack and I had a spanking new tote bag with my name embroidered on it.

I might as well have paid the five bucks to have El Dweeb Grande emblazoned on the side.

"How bad was it?" Kelsey asked.

"Pretty much the only thing I did right was park my car," I said. "I took the wrong exit so I was late. Then when I found the classroom, everyone else had signed onto their computer with their student ID. I didn't know mine, so I had to look over this old lady's shoulder. She rolled her eyes at me like I was too dumb to live. Then when the teacher asked what operating system I used at home I suddenly couldn't remember what an operating system even WAS, so I just made this little noise like a balloon with all the air leaking out of it."

I cast my arms across the countertop and buried my face in them. "Let's just face it," I mumbled. "I'm an idiot and I'm never going to be able to do this."

Kelsey patted arm as she went by. "Sounds like a typical first day..."

I listened to her departing footsteps then straightened up. Actually, it did sound like a typical first day, didn't it? Feeling stupid is pretty much the feeling that accompanies all new ventures. A first day in a new command. A first day behind a register. A first day at the gym. A first day on a skateboard. A first day alone with a baby. First days tend to be marked by serious loads of stupidity. I know that.

Well, I kind of know that. I forget it a lot. I forget it easily. In fact, I read recently that our brains are especially wired to help us forget unpleasant events like these. I find that my own brain has kindly smudged away real memories of all of my bad first days so that I will agree to keep having them and thereby perpetuate the species.

I'm sure that in an evolutionary sense, this is a good thing. But it also means that I torture everyone I know who has a first day by continuing to think that first days are marked with freshness and optimism and lemon-

scented Mr. Clean.

That particular haze has lifted this year. Once again I am well aware that first days at school are about remembering which girls hate you and why. First days on the job are about teetering on the brink of all the things you do not know. First days are for people who are brave enough to start the arduous trail.

So I'll be doing things a little different with the first day-ers I run into from now on. I won't be bubbling over with how lucky and wonderful that first day must be. Instead I will quietly draw the blinds all over the house out of respect. I'll cue up a little Sinatra on the CD player. Wipe glasses with a white towel until the first day folks shuffle in the door. Then I'll set up milkshakes all around, put out a little basket of beer nuts. "What'll it be, Bub?" I'll ask them. "What'll it be?"

A 19-year military spouse, Jacey Eckhart is a nationally syndicated columnist with CinCHouse.com. (www.cinchouse.com/jacey).



**Cartoon by Niev John Ignacio
5th Grade, Grafenwoehr Elementary**

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt

Producer: **MILCOM Advertising Agency**
Roswitha Lehner

Zeilaeckerstr. 35 · 92637 Weiden · Telefax 0961-67050-32

Internet: **www.milcom.de**

Bavarian News is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office. Bavarian News is printed by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner and distributed every other Wednesday. Circulation is 11,300 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: Bavarian News, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to usagnews@graf.aur.army.mil. Telephone the Bavarian News at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.

USAG G Commander
Col. Brian Boyle

**USAG G Acting
Public Affairs Officer**
Nick D'Amario (475-6417)

Bavarian News Editor
Adriane Foss (475-7113)

Assistant Editor
Katie Cowart (475-8103)

Grafenwoehr Correspondent
Bilyana Atova (475-1600)

Hohenfels Correspondent
Garry Barrows (466-4860)

Bamberg Correspondents
(469-2000)
Amy Bugala
Nicole Karsch-Meibom
Krista Browning

Schweinfurt Correspondents
(354-1600)
Miranda McLean
Kimberly Gearhart
Sandra Wilson

Ansbach Correspondents
(467-1600)
Jim Hughes, CI Chief
Ronald Toland

Hourly child care fix in the works

CYS makes suggestions for parents to be part of the solution

by ANITA PAYNE

Special to the Bavarian News

Parents, we do hear you! Hourly child care in the garrison is in short supply.

There are several reasons for this situation and some things that we can do help resolve the shortage.

With the recent deployments, CYS publicized a number of discounts and special offers to support parents during deployment.

We issued vouchers for 16 free hours of child care, extended our operating hours and scheduled Saturday openings twice a month.

At about the same time, ACS received funding to offer Exceptional Family Member respite care up to 40 free hours a month.

These two initiatives caused the demand for hourly care to skyrocket, leaving Families frustrated that they

could not reserve care to use the free voucher we provided to them.

The good news is that demand for full-day care has decreased in Vilseck, leaving space at the CDC for more hourly care. We've added an additional hourly care room and have space to convert more full time space to hourly care.

The major deterrent to expanding hourly child care is lack of adequate staffing. CYS has numerous positions open for intermittent flex, part time, and full time employees. The positions range from entry level to management level.

Lack of applicants for these positions has impeded our ability to open more hourly care spaces in our Facilities. We will be able to expand as soon as we hire additional staff.

Parents have asked about expanding hourly care to Bldg. 224 in Vilseck. We do have Bldg. 224 set up

and ready to go; and we are currently using the space for childcare for the memorial services.

Because we still have adequate physical space for hourly care at the Vilseck CDC, we will not expand to Bldg. 224 as a permanent hourly facility until we maximize the space in Bldg. 2234, the Vilseck CDC.

Again, space is not the problem; it is too few employees to do the job.

There are several things that community members can do to help us resolve the hourly care shortage.

■ **Work for CYS!** You can apply for positions at the NAF CPO office in Bldg. 244 in Grafenwoehr and apply for CYS positions.

■ **Become a CYS volunteer.** CYS offers free volunteer child care in unit settings training on the first Tuesday of each month in Vilseck. Complete the training and volunteer to help staff special openings and memorial

services. Coordinate volunteer hours through ACS for volunteer credit.

■ **If you book an hourly reservation and don't plan to use it, cancel the reservation.** We currently have between 35-50 percent no-show rate for FRG meetings, other special openings, and hourly care.

If parents cancel 24 hours in advance, we are able to call other parents on the waiting list.

■ **Make appointments and schedule meetings in the afternoons.** Hourly care rooms in both CDCs are generally empty after 1 p.m. every day.

Solving the hourly childcare problem in USAG Grafenwoehr is complex, but working together, we can make hourly child care more accessible to more people.

For information about Child and Youth Services, call our Central Registration offices at DSN 476-2760 or DSN 475-6656.

Spotlight on Education



Name: Alina Rozanski

What grade /subject and where do you teach? Choir, U.S. History, and Muisc at Grafenwoehr Middle School

Hometown: Anderson Island, Wash.

How long have you been a teacher? 8 years

What do you like best about teaching?

Working with students; helping to facilitate creative projects that allow them to not just regurgitate facts and figures, but truly learn something.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school?

Your teachers are there to help you - ask questions, come in for extra help, e-mail them, visit their Web sites. Get involved in your own education!

Garrison stresses need for safety seats

Special to the Bavarian News

Chances are, not a single person in USAG Grafenwoehr would ever intentionally put a child at risk. Yet, that's exactly what happens when young passengers are not restrained.

That's why USAG Grafenwoehr Safety Office is conducting a Child Passenger Safety Inspection Day Oct. 26. A key component will be free child safety seat inspections to ensure all children are properly protected.

"Child safety seats and booster seats only work best when they are used correctly," said Michael Schwarz, Garrison Safety Director. "It is so important for people to get their child's seats checked. When it comes to the safety of a child, there is no room

for mistakes."

Oct. 26, USAG Grafenwoehr will have certified technicians available to provide free child safety seat inspections from noon – 3 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr PX parking lot. Parents and caregivers are urged to get their child restraints checked to make certain children are secured properly in an appropriate seat, for their size and height.

According to NHTSA research, 7,000 lives have been saved by the proper use of child restraints during the past 20 years. In 2005 alone, among children under age 5, an estimated 420 lives were saved by child restraint use.

Research on the effectiveness of child restraints show that these

devices provide the best protection for all children up to age 8.

For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers are encouraged to follow "4 Steps for Kids", a guideline for determining which restraint system best suited to protect children based on age and size:

■ **For the best possible protection** keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age 1 and at least 20 pounds.

■ **When children outgrow their rear-facing seats,** they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the

upper weight or height limit of the particular seat, which is usually around age 4 and 40 pounds.

■ **Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats,** they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest, which is usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall.

■ **When children outgrow their booster seats,** they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat, if it fits properly.

For more information on Child Passenger Safety, visit www.nhtsa.gov.



Fall Harvest Fest

(sponsored by the Protestant Service of the Grafenwöhr Chapel)

October 31
from 6 p.m. til 8 p.m.

At the Grafenwöhr Field House

A Halloween Alternative Event

Free Games, Candy and costume contest

All are welcome to attend!
Please no scary costumes.





JMTC HAUNTED HOUSE



When? 26-27 October
What time? 7p.m. to 10p.m.
Where? The **haunted old field house** on Grafenwoehr Main Post (Park in the Burger King parking lot and walk across the street. The field house is located behind the old Shoppette building.)
Description: There will be two age-appropriate trails through the **haunted old field house**.

The first trail is the **LITE** version (for children) with ghouls and goblins on a fun-scary adventure, minus the horror.

The second trail is the **SCREAM** version (for teenagers and adults) with a gory trail through the most ghostly areas of the field house. This route may have chills running down your spine long after Halloween.

Cost? LITE version: \$2
SCREAM version \$3

There will be a craft area for the young kids to participate in while the older siblings are entertained. Sodas and snacks will also be available.

Point of Contact: Andrea Fortner - jonathon.h.fortner@us.army.mil



The Bavarian News is looking for part-time contract journalists for the Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels installations. We will also hire a full-time assistant editor with writing and pagination experience. Applicants should enjoy working with others and be willing to cover events occasionally on weekends and evenings, including high school sporting events. Sports knowledge a plus!

And they all go marching...



Grafenwoehr Elementary and children from a local German school participate in a Volksmarch Oct. 12 through the Grafenwoehr post and town. German and Military police set up road patrols at several checkpoints to keep the kids safe.

Photo by Paula Guzman

Follow Halloween safety tips for a fun holiday

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen

Carving a niche

Are your children begging to carve pumpkins? Make it a family affair.

■ **Use markers.** Let young children draw faces on pumpkins with washable markers. Offer strips of brightly colored paper, costume jewels, glitter glue, washable paint or other decorations. Leave the carving to an adult.

■ **Invest in pumpkin cutters.** With supervision, older children can carve their own pumpkins with special pumpkin cutters equipped with safety bars.

■ **Use candles with care.** Votive candles — short candles often placed in special glass holders — are safest for candlelit pumpkins. Place candlelit pumpkins on a sturdy surface away from curtains and other flammable objects. Never leave candlelit pumpkins unattended.

Clever costumes

From furry animals to princesses and superheroes, choose costumes wisely.

■ **The brighter the better.** Whether you buy a costume or make one yourself, choose bright colors and flame-retardant materials. If your child will be trick-or-treating outdoors after dark, attach reflective tape to his or her costume.

■ **Size it right.** In case it's chilly outdoors, make sure your child's costume is loose enough for warm clothing to be worn underneath — but not long enough to cause tripping. Avoid oversized shoes and high heels.

■ **Skip the masks.** A mask can obstruct your child's vision, especially if it slips out of place. Use kid-friendly makeup instead.

■ **Limit accessories.** Pointed props — such as wands, swords and knives — may pose safety hazards.

Trick or treat

The promise of Halloween candy may leave stars in your child's eyes. But safety still rules.

■ **Get in on the fun.** Accompany trick-or-treaters younger than age 12. Pin a piece of paper with your child's name, address and phone number inside your child's pocket in case you get separated. Encourage older kids to trick-or-treat with a group of friends, parents or older siblings. Make sure someone in the group carries a flashlight with fresh batteries.

■ **Stay close to home.** Don't allow your child to go door to door in an unfamiliar neighborhood.

■ **Set ground rules.** If your child will be trick-or-treating without you, establish a route and set a curfew. Review safety rules, including staying with the group, walking only on the sidewalk, approaching only clearly lit homes and never going inside a home.

You may want to give your child a cell phone for the evening should he or she need to contact you.

■ **Inspect the treats carefully.** Don't let your child snack while he or she is trick-or-treating. Inspect the treats first — and discard anything that's not sealed, has torn packaging or looks questionable. If you have young children, weed out gum, peanuts, hard candies and other choking hazards.

■ **Ration the loot.** If your child collects gobs of goodies, dole out a few pieces at a time and save the rest. Most candy remains fresh for at least several months. You may even ask your child if he or she would like to swap some — or all — of the candy for something else, such as a special toy, book or outing.

Home safe home

If you'll be handing out treats, make sure you're ready for trick-

or-treaters.

■ **Clean up.** Put away anything trick-or-treaters could trip over, such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations. Clear wet leaves, snow and ice from the sidewalk.

■ **Turn the lights on.** Replace any burned-out bulbs to ensure good visibility at your door and the walkway leading up to it.

■ **Control your pets.** Take no chances that your pet might be frightened and chase or bite a child at your door.

■ **Consider sugar substitutes.** Instead of handing out sugar-laden treats, try stickers, glittery pencils, rubber insects or colored chalk.

If you'll be driving on Halloween, watch for children who might pop out between parked cars. Be especially careful entering or leaving driveways and alleys. Extra caution can help ensure a safe night for everyone.

Wounded warriors find a place to rest, heal locally

Continued From Page 1

Giving them their time to heal will allow the commanders to refill the positions these wounded Soldiers have been filling.

As with every unit, the WTU will have a chain of command to handle military issues, and Soldiers will be assigned a nurse case manager and a primary care manager to handle health and healing issues.

Soldiers eligible for the WTU are those assigned to a Medical Hold Company, in active duty medical extension status, or those who require extended medical care for more than six months. Europe Regional Medical Command and tactical commanders will determine who will be assigned to the WTU.

Those who are not eligible for WTU include Soldiers pending investigation, UCMJ, or an administrative separation; with a normal, uncomplicated pregnancy; and permanent profiles requiring a mandatory medical retention board.

There will be four WTU centers in Germany—one each at Vilseck and Heidelberg, and two in Landstuhl.

It is important for WTUs to exist in Europe and our area because “we know the Soldiers, for example 615th Military Police and the 41st Transportation (currently in Iraq), and they may have Family here so it is better for them to stay in here rather than forcing them to the U.S.,” Boyle said. “We localize the units so we can have them here.”

Indeed, there are already facilities in Vilseck for those Soldiers, such as a company operations building and barracks.

The barracks will be located in the recently converted Krystal Inn Bldg. 241.

Boyle explained that they try to accommodate the Soldiers close to the Medical Clinic in a building that is going to have a handicap entrance as well as five rooms with wheelchair access.

“It is my job as a supporter to find more barracks if we need more,” Boyle said.

Still, here in Europe we are different than the big bases in the U.S. that have much bigger capacities, resources and larger support areas, Boyle noted.

“We are going to be prepared to handle these folks and do as much as possible with the resources we have,” he said.

He explained that the WTU may have some affect on the community, mostly in the area of funding.

“We want to take care of the Soldiers and they will have a priority, this is additional funding so potentially it may slow down some care of the others.”

And a Soldiers does not have to be wounded on the battlefield to be eligible for WTU services, explained Boyle.

“If someone hurts his back in a car accident, he will be a candidate for WTU,” he said.

The two types of casualties that are ineligible for WTU services are amputees and burn victims.

Boyle said the WTU is ready to open. “If you told me today I have a WTU member, I can handle it, we can do it right now,” he said.

He also explained that they are going to take “each case as it comes.” And when it comes to married Soldiers who are in wheelchairs “I will have to figure that out. The biggest challenge I have right now is that I do not have too many first floor houses.”

Boyle said “priority No. 1 is to make this Soldier's house as comfortable and efficient as we possibly can.”

Additionally, construction of a new \$16.5 million Transitioning Warrior Support Complex will begin in 2009.

“It is the promise we have made to the Soldiers and the Families, to take care of the wounded warriors.” Boyle said.

USAG Graf takes charge of Garmisch

Continued From Page 1

Gebirgsmusikkorps 8 of the 1st Mountain Division, which consists of musicians who are the last Edelweiss Soldiers stationed at Artillery Kaserne. Garmisch-Partenkirchen is also home to many U.S. military retirees and expatriates.

The U.S. Army presence in Garmisch dates back to May 1945, when it was captured by the 10th Armored Division.

The garrison headquarters is located at Artillery Kaserne, known in 1937 as the Krafft von Dellmensingen, or KvD, Kaserne.

The post was established in 1935-1936 for use by the German army's 1st Mountain Division, Infantry Regiment 99 and Artillery Regiment 69. Toward the end of World War II the kaserne was used as a hospital, and after the cessation of hostilities until 1948 the Americans used it as an internee hospital, a prisoner of war camp, and barracks for U.S. Soldiers.



Photo by Katie Cowart

Showtime

Shauntay Drinks, the wife of a deployed Soldier, recorded a holiday greeting for her deployed husband at the old PX in Vilseck Oct. 1. The greeting, which will be sent downrange to her husband and to Family members in the United States, was recorded by a San Antonio-based team that visited installations throughout Europe. Greetings will be aired Thanksgiving through New Year's.

Don't forget to tell them you read it in the Bavarian News.
Pick up the next edition Oct. 31.

OBERPALZ AREA CONFERENCE

Saturday, 17 November 2007

Join us from 0845-1430 at the CATC Buildings 355,378-379

Rose Barracks, Vilseck, Germany

Topics include: Parenting, Deployment Issues, Leadership, Self Help, Volunteer Recruitment and many more.

Activities include: Breakfast, Lunch, door prizes, give aways, fun crafts and Guest Speaker, General Hogg.

For registration information, please contact: Roseanna Cintron 09641 454 085 oberpfalz@awag.us

AWAG - The Tie That Binds

Look for AFN online at www.afneurope.net/bavaria, or on the radio!

AFN Bavaria Radio Frequencies

Town	AM	FM
Amberg	1107	90.0
Chiemsee		90.3
Garmisch	1485	90.3
Grafenwoehr	1107	101.4
Hohenfels	1485	89.4
Nurenberg		107.4
Katterbach		107.4
Vilseck	1107	107.6

Honoring Our Fallen

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer Soldier and the sunshine patriot, will in this crisis, shrink from service to his country. But he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and women.”

- Thomas Paine

War veterans served ‘unafraid’

7th Army JMTC press release

The Vilseck community gathered Oct. 1 to celebrate the lives of two Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terror. A memorial service was held Monday for two members of the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment who died Sept 29 and 30 in Baghdad, Iraq.

Sgt. Robert T. Ayres III, 23, of Los Angeles, died Sept. 29 of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire.

He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 2SCR, Vilseck, Germany.

Sgt. Randall Olguin, 24, of Ralls, Texas, died Sept. 30 of wounds suffered when



Ayres

insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 2SCR, Vilseck, Germany.

Both men joined the Army at age 19.

“Each of these men joined the Army well after 9-11 and the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom,” said Maj. Tom Rickard, 2SCR rear detachment commander.

“Each man returned from the war in 2005 prior to earning valorous unit awards for enabling the first free Iraqi elections in almost half a century,” he said.

Rickard said Ayres and Olguin could have left military service after their first deployments as proud



Olguin

veterans but neither did.

“They served not for glory or commercial gain. They served because they were citizens and it was the right thing to do,” he said. “They were proud of our nation and wanted to make a difference.”

“Sgt. Ayres and Olguin represent the incredible strength of our Army, as superb noncommissioned officers and warriors,” Rickard said. “They knew well the dangers of combat but continued to serve unafraid.”

Rickard added that these men didn’t know each other in life but now stand together, now as peers with our greatest heroes.

Ayres was described as a superior NCO, who loved to play with children and would often be found playing with them at unit cookouts.

Ayres is survived by his parents Robert and Michell, and his brother Jackson.

Olguin is survived by his wife Anna-Maria, father Senaido, mother Gail, and brother Joey, of Ralls, Texas.

Stryker NCO was like father to 3rd platoon

7th Army JMTC press release

More than 100 Soldiers and community member filled the Vilseck Chapel Oct. 5 to pay their respects to Sgt. 1st Class Randy L. Johnson a platoon sergeant from K-Troop, 2nd Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

Johnson, 34, was from Washington, D.C. He died Sept. 27 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

Johnson was remembered by his fellow Soldiers as a warrior and an outstanding NCO.

“We mourn his loss and it hurts,”



Johnson

said Maj. Tom Rickard, 2SCR rear detachment commander during the Friday service.

“It hurts to know that he will not walk back into Memorial Gym next fall with thousands of his fellow Dragoons after this deployment,” said Rickard. “It hurts to know that such a superior Soldier and leader will not be able to lead our Soldiers anymore.”

Johnson was remembered as a consummate professional who always gave top priority to the training of his men. He was described by one of his Soldiers as being like a father to 3rd Platoon.

Johnson joined the Army at the age of 21 and rose quickly through the ranks. A 13-year veteran, he had been deployed previously to Iraq and Kosovo.

Johnson is survived by his wife Claudia, sons Devin and Aaron, father Randy, and eight brothers and two sisters.

2SCR honors four warriors who made the ultimate sacrifice

‘These are the times that try men’s souls’

7th Army JMTC press release

We honor four warriors today, who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Those were the words spoken by Maj. Tom Rickard, rear detachment commander of the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment as residents of Vilseck gathered at the Rose Barracks Chapel Friday to mourn the deaths and celebrate the lives of four fallen Strykers.

The Soldiers being remembered were Spc. Avealao Milo, Cpl. Gilberto Meza, Cpl. Jason Nicholas Marchand, and Sgt. Joseph Bradley Milledge.

Each Soldier was killed while serving on deployment in Iraq.

“They fought with distinction in the most complex and dangerous form of warfare to preserve our freedom at home by securing democracy in the heart of the Iraqi region,” Rickard said of the four heroes.

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer Soldier and the sunshine patriot, will in this crisis, shrink from service to his country,” said Rickard, quoting the words of Thomas Paine. “But he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and women.”

Spc. Avealalo Milo, 23, of Hayward, Calif., died Oct. 4 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire.



Milo



Photo by Spc. Gerald Wilson

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr community gathered Friday to mourn four 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers who were killed during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq. The 2SCR deployed in August to serve a 15-month tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Cpl. Gilberto A. Meza, 21, died Oct. 6 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit.

Meza was remembered for being mentally tough and never backing down from a challenge. He once packed his rucksack with 85 pounds on a 10-mile march to prove he was



Meza

the best.

Sgt. Joseph B. Milledge, 23, and Cpl. Jason N. Marchand, 26, died Oct. 5 in Baghdad of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near their unit during combat operations.

Milledge was born in Pointblank, Iowa. He was described as being an outstanding noncommissioned officer, able to spur his



Milledge

Soldiers on to get the task done no matter what the odds.

Marchand was born in Greenwood, W.Va. He will be remembered as a great friend to his fellow Soldiers. He was known to do anything he could to help them out.

Milledge, Marchand, and Meza were assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 2SCR, Vilseck, Germany.



Marchand

Garrison town hall informs community

by GARRY BARROWS
Bavarian News

The quarterly Hohenfels town meeting was held Oct. 10 at the Community Activity Center to inform residents of significant events for the upcoming months.

The meeting, presided over by Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels commander, laid out a number of garrison initiatives as well as upcoming special post-wide events.

An extensive renovation of the main post gym to enlarge weight rooms, create a separate cardio exercise center, purchase new weights and cardio equipment, and renovate the locker

room area to include a rest area with plasma televisions was announced.

Other garrison projects discussed were the mid-November Army Community Service move to Bldg. 10, the in-processing center, to establish a more accessible Welcome Center; the continuing Sun Rise Lodge expansion; an extensive facility upgrade of the Teen Center; and a greater emphasis on program usage for Families of deployed Soldiers.

The Community Information Program will be greatly enhanced to include news briefs distribution of the bi-monthly Bavarian News; the resurrection of the Box Bulletin to provide an additional one-stop information source; to make greater use of the Command Information Channel; to provide a personal immediate response to negative ICE comments; and to research a greater use of the Internet as an “info and swap board” for the community.

The Fall AAFES Furniture Expo starts today and runs through Friday at the CAC, Bldg. 40, which has been turned into a massive furniture display area where living room, bedroom, and dining room ensembles are set up for shoppers to personally experience.

Literally hundreds of other home and furniture items are on display at the Expo. Lightning fast delivery is also available.

The Winter Holiday Bazaar kicks off a three-day run at the CAC starting Nov. 9 and will feature dozens of vendors offering a large variety of

Christmas gift ideas.

Other announcements included the establishment of the Hohenfels Warrior Transition Unit to facilitate the recuperation of any wounded warrior here in Hohenfels; the addition of nine Tricare OCONUS preferred dentists in our area to more efficiently serve Family members and several gate changes—primarily the permanent closing of Gate 1 to inbound traffic from 9 p.m. – 5 a.m. beginning Dec. 1.

The meeting concluded with an open floor session in which attendees had an opportunity to give feedback and ask questions.

The next Town Hall meeting will take place in mid January.

Tigers win homecoming!

The Hohenfels Tigers defeated the Bamberg Barons during their Oct. 12 homecoming game, 37-0. The game, held at Hohenfels, featured senior quarterback Michael Tillberg who ran for two touchdowns and threw for two more, both to junior wide receiver Colby Baskins.



Photo by Garry Barrows

On a crisp fall evening, the Tigers gave an enthusiastic crowd reason to cheer on nearly every series of downs as Head Coach Ed Lynch’s team played an inspired game on both offense and defense.

The Tigers, now 3-1 in Division III play, travel to Wuerzburg next weekend. Hohenfels High School Principal Daniel Mendoza noted that there would be a community bus going to the game leaving the high school parking area at 4 p.m. Friday. All are welcome to come along and support the team.

Emergency taxi service available to Soldiers

by DAN VOGLESONG
Special to the Bavarian News

Keeping alcohol-impaired drivers off the road is one of the key factors in reducing the potential for motor vehicle accidents. Here in Bavaria, Soldiers may be tempted to over-indulge in local beer drinking festivals and in late-night disco nightclubs far from home.

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels has met this challenge head on by arranging with a local taxi service to provide emergency transportation home to any unfortunate Soldier who has become incapacitated for any reason, and flat broke from spending all of his cash.

If any Soldier needs an emergency taxi ride to their home or to a hospital, all he has to do is call the garrison’s Installation Operations Center at CIV 09472-83-2819.

The IOC officer will identify the Soldier’s name, unit, and exact location, with a telephone number where the Soldier can be found by the taxi provider. The taxi driver will obtain payment from the IOC Taxi Cash Fund, funded by generous donations by Hohenfels residents.

When a Soldier uses this emergency taxi service, he is expected to repay the amount with Euros to the IOC Office at Bldg. 309. If the Soldier

has not repaid this loan by payday, his chain of command will be advised.

Please encourage Soldiers to use this service and give consideration to supporting this new program with a cash donation (in Euros) to the IOC.

In a related opportunity, there is new train from Nuremberg that leaves at 3:23 a.m. Friday mornings, arriving at Parsberg at 5:06 a.m. Fridays. This allows our Soldiers plenty of time to return to duty on Fridays.

All Soldiers going to the Thursday night “ladies’ night” at the disco next to Nuremberg Hauptbahnhof, are encouraged to take the train from Parsberg, instead of driving to Nuremberg.

There is a special discounted Bayern Nacht Ticket (Bavaria-Night-Ticket) for up to five persons to ride together all evening for 21 Euros. The ticket can be purchased at any local train station, or online at <http://www.bahn.de> for only 19 Euros per group ticket.

Bayern-Ticket Nacht is a new program and is valid Monday to Thursday from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. the next day, Monday and Friday from 6 p.m. until 7 a.m.

No one should drive a car from the Parsberg Bahnhof if they have been drinking. Take advantage of the emergency taxi ride home service.

Children learn to deal with separation in new CYS ‘Kissing Hands’

by ALFONZO WALKER
Special to the Bavarian News

We all know that children love exciting fairy tale stories about knights, princesses, children, and especially cuddly animals.

That is why it is a pleasure to introduce Chester, a new member to the Hohenfels community and The Kissing Hand program developed by the Military Child Education Coalition.

The Kissing Hand program is comprised of a kit, an indulging story, and activities very familiar to Families living in our up-tempo military environment.

It is especially geared toward children in ages three to six years, and works well with first and second graders.

The story evolves around Chester, and his first day of school. As expected, Chester is apprehensive of this event.

His mother tells him a story about how their raccoon Family shares love when someone has to be away.

She wraps his tiny fingers around her kiss, but it’s the story that Chester embraces, and he will cherish this moment forever.

The Kissing Hand program

provides Families with a unique tool to reassure and prepare kids for upcoming deployments of loved ones, PCS moves, first day of school, and other transition periods.

The program includes activities produced by Growing, Learning, Understanding – Making Meaning Through Early Literacy such as Goodbye Rituals, What Love Feels Like, A Book of Mementos, Carrying Kisses, and others.

The Kissing Hand program will be offered as a collaborative Child and Youth Services and Army Community Services Parent Education initiative.

Classes will be offered monthly at the Turnbull Memorial Library.

Each one-hour session will consist of The Kissing Hand story, and a GLU.

The first class will be held Nov. 13 at 10 a.m.

For additional information and questions about The Kissing Hand program, contact Gena Gause at CIV 09472-83-4041/42.

For more information about programs available through the library, call DSN 466-1740, or CIV 09472-83-1740.

You may also contact CLEOS at DSN 466-3221 or CIV 09472-83-3221.

‘Soccer Moms’ takes second in annual one-act competition in Heidelberg

by GARRY BARROWS
Bavarian News

Cast members adjusting to a different stage; a final read through in a maintenance room; last minute instructions from the director and opening night jitters all over again.

All these special moments are part of the 12th Annual Festival of One-Act Plays that was held Oct. 5-7 at the Roadside Theatre in Heidelberg.

Hohenfels Entertainment Director Joanne Love took Soccer Moms, a one-act play about three women, played by Ellen Schumann, Rosemarie Smith, and Deborah Barrows, who make some important personal choices while playing a soccer game against their nine-year-old children, to the competition as she continues to strengthen the community’s theatre program.

“It’s important the community continue to support the arts and the arts continue to support the community,” Love said.

Fourteen one-act plays were

entered in this years’ competition from all across Europe including productions from Vilseck, Schweinfurt, Bamberg, and Ansbach. One unique aspect of this festival is that the plays are all presented live for everyone to enjoy and the adjudication is presented immediately after each play.

“The festival is very much hands-on training that teaches critical observation skills. And everyone can see each other’s work,” explained Jim Sohre, Army Europe Entertainment Director.

Sohre noted the other large Europe wide theatre competition, The Tournament of Plays, is for full three-act productions and the judging is done on-site. Participants then gather for the Topper Awards Banquet to acknowledge the nominees and recognize the winners.

The competition is conducted in accordance with the American Association of Community Theatre procedures which provides for very exacting rules in the set-up and presentation of the performance.

“It’s important the community continue to support the arts and the arts continue to support the community.”

Joanne Love
Hohenfels Entertainment Director

All the props for the play and the actors too, have to all fit in a 10-by-10-foot preparation area backstage and everything must be set up on stage within a 10-minute time limit.

There is a 60-minute time limit for the length of any presentation.

Theatre skills workshops were presented by professionals to help participants to improve many aspects of their craft. Workshops for stage managers, musical directors, and singers were among the areas of concentration.

Army Europe Entertainment does an outstanding job in presenting the Festival and the Tournament of Plays. One of the most visible aspects is how much of the overall program is aimed at the individual.

“We’re here to train the directors, train the actors to make our services better,” Sohre concluded.

In spite of being up against much larger installations some with more elaborate full time funded theatre programs, Soccer Moms took second place for Ensemble Cast and second place for Best Director.

The Best of Show award went to Kaiserslautern KMC OnStage for its presentation of “Conversations on Russian Literature.”

There is a lot of great theatre just a few hours away. For information on live theatre and special concerts being presented in Southern Europe, contact Joanne Love at DSN 466-2340.

Training in ‘the box’ preps troops for Kosovo

Story and photo by GARRY BARROWS
Bavarian News

The date was Sept. 28 and it was X-2, the second day of concentrated training in “the box”, the Hohenfels Joint Military Readiness Center’s battle focused training area, for two National Guard battalions of the 35th Infantry Division, 194th Field Artillery from Missouri and the 135th Infantry from Minnesota.

The two units, along with several other coalition units, were training for KFOR 9, the ninth rotation of peacekeeping forces sent to Kosovo to provide a safe and secure environment as described in United Nations Resolution 1244.

On this day, elements of the 194th Field Artillery had a command and control exercise planned for them in Civil Disturbance Training although they didn’t know it.

This would be a small portion of what these two battalions came to the JMRC for; training, on many levels.

Reginald Bourgeois, the Executive Officer of the JMRC said, in a media briefing, that these exercise provide the level of training the Soldiers should expect.

“When they enter the box, it’s live,” Bourgeois explained. “They have to defend themselves.”

In a broad sense, the training follows a script devised by JMRC personnel to prepare them for the worst case scenarios they may run into during a deployment to Kosovo. These scripts are based on the very latest information gathered directly from the Kosovo front via temporary duty assignments, subject matter experts, and video teleconferencing that can actually change the content of situational training exercises on a day by day basis.

“We must remain flexible and adaptive,” Bourgeois explained.

“These troops are going in harm’s way,” said Lt. Col. David Batchelor, commander of the Timberwolves observer-controller team. “We want and need to stay on top of the latest developments. We even keep in touch with those we recently trained who are currently deployed because they send back great information (to improve our training).”

The JMRC goal is to provide training as realistic as possible. That goes for everything from riot training to introductions to civilians on the battle field, a diverse group of people who are trained to portray anyone who may be found in Kosovo including Serbian clerics, friendly and unfriendly news correspondents, or members of the Kosovo Protective Services (the local police).

“I will take a new battalion commander and



The realism of the situation being faced by these Soldiers as the crowd becomes more vocal and agitated is one goal of a Civil Disturbance Training scenario.

introduce him to the Deputy Mayor of Vitina, and he will treat me just as if I was the outgoing commander,” Batchelor said, noting the “Deputy Mayor” will thank him for his service on behalf of the people and express a hope the new commander will be able to work with the government just as well.

After that, it’s live and the various training elements have to establish their own routine and battle rhythm.

On this morning, elements of the 194th Field Artillery received information that a peaceful demonstration was anticipated in the village of Gnjilane. In addition, indicators were present that the demonstration could escalate,

as two days earlier Monks in a nearby monastery raised a Serbian flag over the building. Kosovo is roughly 85 percent Albanian and interethnic tensions are often quick to surface.

A platoon of Soldiers was dispatched to the area in full riot gear including shields and face masks. Two vehicles with mounted gun platforms joined in this show of force designed to maintain order and diffuse the volatile situation in the village.

One aim of this kind of situation is to be able to “disburse the situation with the least amount of force necessary,” Batchelor explained.

All during the demonstration, patrols and key leaders on the ground continued to collect and

process information hoping to always stay ahead of events or to identify the instigators of the confrontation and remove them from it. Often, such tactics allow the situation to peacefully run out of steam.

Such was the case with this demonstration. But it not always so.

A similar demonstration several days later allowed for freeplay, a non-scripted increase of the intensity on the part of the civilians on the battle field and enemy forces. When an arrest of an instigator was attempted, the crowd made it possible for them to run and attempt to escape. The peacekeepers broke formation and followed the instigators allowing others to kidnap an interpreter who was with a patrol to allow communication with townspeople and local authorities.

There was a period of time before the disappearance was discovered.

“Accountability is always an issue,” Batchelor explained. “Just like you would be as a parent with your kids at the mall; you are constantly accounting for them all the time.”

While this was a mistake in judgment and procedure, it is exactly what the civil disturbance training is all about: providing the most realistic scenarios and events to play out on the training battlefield so that they won’t play out in Kosovo.

Later in the day, a squad on patrol in the village of Vitina came upon a group of media being shown about the village. While always maintaining an alert and ready posture in surveillance of the area, the squad interacted with the media just as they could at any time during their deployment.

“This kind of ‘meet and greet’ allows us to get a feel of what’s going on,” explained Pfc. James Estes, of Hadley, Minnesota, “and establish a good rapport with the population. I think we achieved that.”

Later in the afternoon, a cordon and search opportunity was presented to a platoon in the village of Vitina that was very successful as a large cache of weapons and drug paraphernalia was discovered.

Batchelor explained that in such a scenario, the Soldiers take on the role of a detective in documenting the event, taking pictures of the evidence and any suspects who may have been apprehended and then be able to turn this documentation over to the Kosovo authorities.

“It is preferable to include Kosovo leadership into a cordon and search operation to establish trust into the relationship with them.” Batchelor said.

In the box, there are nine military operation sites like the two villages of Gnjilane and Vitina as well as three battalion base camps and four cave sites used for search and combat operation training.

Slovenian women prove right to be in Infantry unit, serve country in combat during JMRC exercises

by Capt. JUNEL JEFFREY
Special to the Bavarian News

Oh hail, oh hail, oh Infantry. While U.S. laws currently allow only men to answer the call of combat arms, many other countries march to the beat of a different drum.

Countries like Slovenia answer “yes” to the age-old discussion of whether or not women should have the opportunity to serve in infantry units.

The 1st Mechanized Company, 74th Mechanized Battalion recently conducted training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at the Hohenfels Training Area.

In the Slovenian Army, both men and women must carry the combat load.

1st Lt. Aleš Zelenko, the unit company commander, was at first surprised to see female soldiers in his unit, but says that he gave them the opportunity and the women have risen to the challenge.

“Infantry work is hard, but the women have proven themselves,” said Zelenko.

“I didn’t think about that they were females. I wanted them to do the same

jobs as the other soldiers.”

Nadja Šibila, a Slovenian female infantry soldier, says she enjoys the interesting dynamic that comes along with her line of work.

“Every day something new happens,” said Šibila. “I serve my country so that I can do my part.”

In preparation for her unit’s first combat experience, Šibila is one of just a handful of women training at the JMRC to deploy to Afghanistan.

JMRC Observer Controllers trained and evaluated the Slovenian company on conduct mounted and dismounted training and Situational Training Exercises, including collective tasks like how to conduct combat patrols, traffic control points, raids, and reacting to improvised explosive devices.

“The training had a positive affect on me,” Šibila said. “When I was engaging the opposition forces, it was realistic so that could imagine how things would be in reality.”

While many OCs were surprised to find female infantry soldiers as part the Slovenian force, the rough and tough training did not falter.

Capt. Kevin Poole, an infantryman

charged with assisting the Slovenian company with tactics and procedures related to combat operations specific to Afghanistan, says he does not view gender as factor regarding battlefield success.

“To be honest, with any Infantryperson, you really can’t tell what to expect until you get them out there and put them into the pressure cooker and see how they react,” Poole said.

“I thought that the women performed well,” said Poole. “They left a good impression on my OCs as well as myself.”

“We came. We trained. We learned. We are ready to go to Afghanistan,” Zelenko said.

“Training here, at JMRC was very interesting. They [females] have gained experience, so I am not afraid for them going into Afghanistan.”

Slovenian soldier Ines Marinšek has duty providing tank support during her training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels in September.

Photo by Pfc. Kalie Frantz



Fire prevention week heats up Garmisch

Story and photo by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

As blue lights flashed and sirens blared, firefighters raced into the parking lot of the Artillery Kaserne commissary in Garmisch, the scene of an apparently serious accident between a heavy crane truck and a passenger car Oct. 9.

Two days later, again arriving Code-3, a fire truck pulls up at the Garmisch American School in response to an alarm.

Fortunately no one was really hurt and nothing burned—the t-boned car was staged for an exercise, and the school incident was the second of two dramatic demonstrations in a cooperative effort between the Freiwillige Feuerwehr (Volunteer Fire Department) Garmisch-Partenkirchen, and the U.S. Army Garrison-Garmisch Safety Office and Fire Emergency Service Office as part of the 2007 Fire Prevention Week.

In addition to being interesting to onlookers, the exercises allowed the volunteers to hone their skills.

The realistic traffic accident exercise quickly drew a crowd of curious shoppers and those drawn to the scene by the wail of the sirens, including a class of Pond Security personnel on hand to observe as part of their own training.

Treating the situation as if real victims were trapped inside and the passenger door of the battered BMW sedan jammed, the firefighters first stabilized the car and then deployed the Jaws of Life, quickly forcing it open. Within minutes after their arrival the firefighters had the stubborn door pried open.

“We tried to damage the car with the crane to make it more realistic, but it is a very well built car,” mused garrison Safety Officer Andreas Tuerk, organizer of the week’s training. “This exercise fulfills the second of two motor vehicle safety days we’re required to have each year.”

Now it was time for some serious body work; the roof of the car had to be removed so the “victims” could be safely treated and extracted.

A powerful set of hydraulic rettungs-schere (rescue shears) hefted in turns by volunteers ate through the metal and glass like hot scissors through Lebenkase in huge, mechanical bites.

After chomping through the posts attaching the roof, the top was peeled forward to rest on the hood. At this point in an actual accident, the victims could be removed without causing them additional harm.

On Oct. 11, a normal fire drill at Garmisch American School was enhanced with the same level of drama for the children.

“You don’t see a fire chief setting off the alarm very often,” said garrison fire chief Wolfgang Pauls-Polch, pressing the button to sound the klaxons.

During the drill 110 children quickly and calmly exited their classrooms to the assembly area and watched as the Volunteer Fire Department responded to the call, joining two garrison trucks already on scene.

Originally there was going to be a small, controlled fire for the volunteers to extinguish, but real-world obligations took precedence and that part of the demonstration was cancelled.

“The students are excited—they love this!” said Principal Susan Ussery as she observed and kept an eye on her charges.

“I talked to the kindergarten children this morning and they knew a lot about fire escape plans from their homes. I was impressed! They know Sparky the fire dog and they know to be safe around fire,” she said.

The drill was supposed to begin at 1 p.m. and everyone was expecting it, said Ussery, but it was delayed by a half-hour, lulling students and faculty into thinking there wasn’t going to be any drill.

Chief Pauls-Polch hit the alarm after everyone’s guard was down.



Chief Wolfgang Pauls-Polch fires the imagination of the Garmisch American School students, letting them experience the force of the water stream at different nozzle settings as they extinguish imaginary flames.

Seventy of the younger students took turns riding in the fire truck or wielding the nozzle to knock down imaginary flames.

“The drill worked perfect,” said Pauls-Polch. “The children are interested in learning about fire safety and were very happy to spray water.”

The children watched fire education videos, and Tuerk and Pauls-Polch passed out helmets, stickers, flyers, and other reminders about fire safety.

The drill gave the students an opportunity to practice their language skills with the Garmisch-

Partenkirchen volunteers, shouting “Thanks” and “This is cool!” in German.

The week successfully wrapped-up Oct. 12 with fire warden training, a distribution of fire prevention flyers in the housing area, and an information point in front of the commissary to spread awareness on how to plan and practice escapes from homes.

Fire Prevention Week is held every October in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed more than 250 people and destroyed more than 17,000 buildings.

Sibling NCOs bring Hispanic Heritage to Garmisch

Story and photo by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

National Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated Oct. 11 at the Pete Burke Community Center thanks to sibling senior non-commissioned officers and the help of volunteers.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ismael Rodriguez was the guest speaker. He was preceded by his sister, 1st Sgt. Annette Rodriguez, who presented a slide show of famous Hispanic Americans. The two senior NCOs have another brother currently serving as an Army officer.

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., and

educated in Puerto Rico, Rodriguez spoke about the first time he was stationed in Germany as a junior NCO, and how he looked forward to meeting his new company commander, also a Hispanic American.

Rodriguez’s enthusiasm was originally crushed when he realized his commander had rejected his Hispanic roots, language, and culture.

“Eventually my anger for him turned to pity,” said Rodriguez, vowing to teach his own children about their Puerto Rican history and to speak and read Spanish.

The event itself wouldn’t have

happened if Annette Rodriguez and Shelley Stokes hadn’t volunteered.

Both played key roles in organizing the event.

“I was thrilled to be a part of this important event for the community,” said Stokes, who read a presidential proclamation for National Hispanic Heritage Month.

A meal of assorted Hispanic foods, including chicken mole and enchiladas prepared by volunteers, was heartily devoured by about 70 attendees.

An enormous, decorated cake for dessert was donated by AAFES.



Plates heaped high with foods as colorful as their rich Hispanic heritage, attendees at the National Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at the Pete Burke Community Center chowed down on dishes hard to find in southern Bavaria, like carnitas, chorizo, mole, and salsa.

Need someone
to walk the
dog, house sit,
or babysit the
kids?

Or are YOU
looking for a
job?

Place your
search or other
ads in the
Bavarian News
FREE
classifieds!

Call 475-7113
or visit
www.milcom.de
today.



CPS Harvest Fest

Children of All Ages

November 3rd
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
School Age Services
Vilseck, Bldg. 2237

Come By For:

- Arts and Crafts
- Photo Booth
- Pumpkin Roll
- Haunted House
- Face Painting
- and more!

Open to all military ID card holders



Join ITR on an Overnight Trip to the

Munich

Christmas Markets



Sign up by October 30th

Trip Includes:	Cost:
Hotel	Adults: \$219 each
Munich City Tour and Olympic Tower	Children (3-12): \$109 each
Nymphenburger Palace Tour	Children under 3 FREE!
Christmas Markets	

For More Information Call ODR at Graf DSN: 475-7402 or CIV: 09641-83-7402
or at Vilseck DSN: 476-2563 or CIV: 09662-83-256.

USAG, Garmisch MWR Marketing



There are different age categories for the students and this includes Homeschoolers. Essays and Applications must be turned in by Nov. 1 at the Elementary and High Schools, Teen Center or to the School Liaison in Bldg. 309. Contact Michele Wolff by email for more information at michele.wolff@us.army.mil.

What’s Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Trunk or Treat held Oct. 31

Trunk or Treat takes place Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. in the Katterbach Hanger 2 and in Illesheim at 6 p.m. at the veterinary clinic parking lot between Bldgs. 6541 and 6620.

Illesheim also hosts a haunted house in Bldg. 6508 from 5-7 p.m.

DECA, AAFES meeting

The USAG Ansbach Commissary and AAFES Council meets tomorrow at 1 p.m. in the Illesheim theater to discuss changes and address community concerns about the operations.

Leadership encourages everyone in the community to attend the meeting to find out about changes and bring up their concerns. For more on the meeting, call DSN 468-7919 or CIV 0981-183-919.

Relocation sites changed

The previously-used Web application for relocation information called SITES is no longer available. The sponsor of the SITES Web site has made the transition to providing new relocation information and relocation tools—Military Installations and Plan My Move at <http://www.MilitaryHomefront.dod.mil> or <http://www.militaryonesource.com>.

These tools allow for utilization on advanced technology and reliable internet information coupled with 24/7 services available from Military OneSource. Military Installations and Plan My Move are streamlined, interactive, reliable, and up-to-date moving applications. Update your bookmarks accordingly.

U.S. Customs hours

The U.S. Forces Customs-Europe Office in Room 213 of Bldg. 5251 on Barton Barracks is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The office is closed on federal holidays. For more information, call DSN 468-7842 or CIV 0981-183-842.

Single Soldier retreat

The chapel hosts a single Soldier retreat entitled How Not to Marry a Jerk Training at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch Oct. 25-27.

A bus will be available to transport Soldiers to the Edelweiss. To register or for more information, call DSN 467-2785 or CIV 09802-83-2785.

SKIES offers music lessons

SKIES Unlimited recently started a music lesson program. The program offers guitar, voice, drum and keyboard lessons to children ages 6-18 and also a program called Kinder Music to ages 1-6. Quarterly private lessons cost \$280, group lessons are \$210 and Kinder Music lessons cost \$130. For more on the program, call Bryan Osewalt at DSN 467-4639 or CIV 09841-83-4639.

Help kids get glasses

The Ansbach Spouses and Civilians Club sponsors the Bright Eyes program to get children who qualify for free or reduced lunches at the schools up to \$50 off of the cost of eye glasses. For more on the program or to find out how to apply, call your child’s school’s nurse, or contact Sarah Tipple at sarah.tipple@us.army.mil or CIV 09802-83-2064.

ACAP update

Upcoming Army Career and Alumni Program events include a Federal Application Seminar, Monday. Soldiers and their spouses who are one year from possible separation or two years from possible retirement are eligible to attend. Spouses of Soldiers currently deployed who anticipate separating shortly after reintegration are eligible to attend ACAP while the service member is deployed.

For more information, call ACAP at DSN 467-3312 or CIV 09802-83-3312 for more information or to register for events.

Scholarships available

Each year, about 500 youths around the world win \$1,500 scholarships in the Scholarships for Military Children program. Children of active-duty and retired military, Reserve and National Guard members compete for the scholarships. Applications for the fall 2008 school year should be available on Nov. 1, either at the Katterbach or Illesheim commissaries or on-line at militaryscholar.org.

The deadline for submitting applica-

tions to the commissary is Feb. 20.

Fore more information, contact Marie-Luise Glaser, Illesheim store manager at DSN 467-4717 or CIV 09841-8796 or e-mail her at marie.glaser@deca.mil.

New chapel hours announced

The Katterbach and Illesheim chapels have new hours for their services.

At Katterbach, the Catholic service is at 9 a.m., Protestant at 11 a.m., Episcopal/Anglican at 1 p.m., Church of God in Christ at 2:30 p.m., and Hispanic Pentecostal at 4:30 p.m.

At Illesheim, the Protestant service is at 10 a.m. and the Catholic at 11:45 p.m.

For more information, call DSN 467-2785 or CIV 09802-83-2785.

Toastmasters class set

Sarah Tipple, USAG Ansbach Army Emergency Relief officer, is looking into starting a Toastmasters group in the community.

She said the group helps people communicate more effectively, become better listeners, improve presentation skills, increase leadership potential, become more successful in their careers, build their ability to motivate and persuade, reach their professional and personal goals and increase their self confidence.

To start a group, 20 people need to sign up. If you’re interested or would like more information on Toastmasters International, call Tipple at CIV 09802-83-2064 or send her an e-mail at sarah.tipple@us.army.mil.

PWOC meetings announced

■ The Katterbach Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Katterbach Chapel Fellowship Hall.

People who can’t attend PWOC during the day can also attend meetings every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. in the Triple Classroom at the Katterbach Chapel.

For more on the group, call Jenny Abbott at CIV 0980-295-3117 or e-mail her at wjabott@gmail.com. Childcare is provided.

■ The Illesheim PWOC meets every Tuesday from 9:15-11:30 a.m. at the Illesheim Chapel. Childcare if available for children infants-4 years old, and there will also be a potluck brunch.

The Illesheim PWOC is also sponsoring a community-wide yard sale Friday from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call Iris Heeter at CIV 09841-682-746.

Bamberg Briefs

Breast cancer awareness

Learn more about breast cancer screening, prevention methods, breast self exams and the difference between different types of cancer at an information booth inside the Bamberg AAFES Main Exchange tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Early detection saves lives.

Attend breast cancer month awareness luncheon

The Bamberg community is invited to attend a Breast Cancer Month Awareness luncheon sponsored by the Bamberg Spouses’ and Civilians’ Club and the Bamberg Health Promotion Office Oct. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guest Speaker will be Col. Schneider, Bavaria MEDDAC Commander. This event is open to the entire community by reservation only. You do not need to be a BSCC member to attend. E-mail reservations@bsccgermany.com to reserve your seat. RSVP by Oct. 23. Hourly childcare will be available through the CDC. Call DSN 469-8789. Luncheon will cost \$12 per person.

ODR October trips

Bamberg’s ODR October trips are on sale now! Josh will get you peddling through the countryside on a 30k mountain bike trip Saturday. Visit the historic sites of Wuerzburg Oct. 27. Trips fill up quickly, so reserve your seat now. Contact the CAC for more info at DSN 469-8659.

Halloween yard decorating contest held next week

All Warner Barracks residents can compete in the Halloween yard decorating contest. All registered yards, balconies and stairwells will be judged. Participants must register through the housing zone coordinator Staff Sgt.

Tyrone King at DSN 469-7946. Registration is open through Oct. 24. Judging will be Oct. 25 through Oct. 29.

Pumpkin patch trip set

Take a trip to the Altendorf pumpkin patch with the Bamberg community library Monday at 3:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided, just bring Euro to purchase pumpkins. For more information call the library at DSN 469-1740.

Pumpkin carving party

The Bamberg community library is hosting a pumpkin carving party Oct. 24 at 5 p.m. Pumpkins, tools and supplies are free while they last! For more information call the library at DSN 469-1740.

Costume karaoke Oct. 26

Come out to the Moonlight Cabin Oct. 26 for costume karaoke. With over 3,000 songs to choose from and prizes for the best costume it will be a great time! Karaoke starts at 9 p.m. and continues until closing. Call the Moonlight Cabin for more information at CIV 0951-300-8423.

Spooky Halloween bowling

Spooky Halloween Bowling will take place Oct. 29 at the Birchview Bowling Center. Customers can bowl for only 50 cents per game. Stop by for some trick-or-treats from 5 to 9 p.m. Show up in costume and receive a coupon for a free game! Contact the Bowling Center for more information at DSN 469-7722.

Harry Potter costume contest

Children and adults can participate in a Harry Potter costume contest on Halloween night at the Bamberg community library at 5 p.m. For more information call the library at DSN 469-1740.

Harvest fest offers Family fun

The Bamberg Community Chapel and MWR are sponsoring a Harvest Fest Oct. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Bamberg high school gymnasium. The Harvest Fest is a Christian alternative to customary Halloween activities. There will be games, activities and candy for the whole family. Wear only Family friendly costumes. Call CIV 0951-300-7452 for more information.

Trick-or-treating hours set

The trick-or-treating hours for U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg Warner Barracks will be Oct. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Halloween portrait special

Have Kimberly take your portrait in costume during the month of October and receive 10 percent off your order. Call the Community Activity Center and make an appointment today at DSN 469-8659.

Join the AWANA Club

AWANA, an international, non-denominational Children’s Ministry, will meet every Sunday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the high school gym starting this Sunday. The club is open to all children ages 4-12. Registration is now open and forms are available at the Chapel. For more information, contact Luke Granger at the chapel DSN 469-8140.

Attend V.A. benefits briefing

Attend the next ACAP V.A. benefits briefing Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon at the post movie theater. The briefing will explain what programs and services are available through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Open to entire military community. For more information contact Olivia at DSN 469-8925.

Attend V.A. DTAP briefing

Attend a Veterans Affairs, Disability Transition Assistance Program briefing Nov. 7 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Preston Hall. This briefing is for service members who are planning to apply for Disability Compensation with the V.A. and provides information on the DTAP, including the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services. The V.A. helps veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, find, and keep suitable employment. For veterans with serious service-connected disabilities, V.A. also offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. For more information contact Olivia at DSN 469-8925.

Play Bingo, win prizes

The Bamberg Aqua Barons Swim Team is hosting a Bingo Night Nov. 7 in the high school multi-purpose room. Win all kinds of great European prizes including Polish pottery. Doors open at 6 p.m. Games start at 7 p.m. \$8 or \$15 packets are available which include playing cards and raffle tickets.

Concessions will be available.

3D training offered by ASAP

Unit commanders and first sergeants: Are you looking to knock out some of your unit’s mandatory training courses all in one day? Sign your unit up for one of the drunk and drugged driving month training seminars being offered by the Army Substance Abuse Program and the USAG Bamberg Health Promotion Committee. The training sessions will be offered Dec. 4 and 6, and will run from 1 to 5 p.m. Some of the topics that will be included are:

- Alcohol awareness
- Overview of the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program
- Legal consequences of DUIs and drug positives
- Family Advocacy and the Sexual Assault Program
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Tobacco prevention
- How to beat the holiday blues
- Winter driving
- Suicide prevention

This is a great way to ensure that the Soldiers in your unit have received a variety of valuable prevention and safety information as we head into the holiday season. To registration, contact Darlene Copeland, Prevention Coordinator, at DSN 469-7038.

Commander open-door hours

The Garrison Commander’s open door hours are held every Monday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Bldg. 7089, room 308. If you have any questions or concerns, address them with the garrison commander during this time. For more information call DSN 469-1500.

“Painting With Light” Art Exhibit at CAC Friday

Learn all about Hungary through the eyes of artist and photographer, Ilona Wellmann, at a Hungarian cultural event Friday at 6 p.m. at the Community Activity Center. The artist’s photos and Hungarian Halas lace will be available for purchase until Nov. 4. Halas Lace making demonstrations will be at the CAC tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 2 to 9 p.m.

Red Ribbon Week Oct. 22 -26

Red Ribbon Week will kick-off for the USAG Bamberg community Monday with a Soldier and civilian 5K fun run starting at 6:30 a.m. at the Freedom Fitness Facility. For more information about the Red Ribbon Week campaign or treatment and prevention resources contact Linda Riddle, ASACS Counselor at CIV 0951-303-103.

USAREUR Band and Chorus

The U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus will be performing a fall concert at the Bamberg Konzert and Kongresshalle Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available for 9.50 Euro for all military, civilian, and retirees with valid Military ID card. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the BVD-Kartenservice or Infothek in the Rathaus in the Maxplatz. For more information contact the Bamberg Public Affairs Office at DSN 469-2000.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Learn to belly dance

Join Army Community Services for a belly dancing class at Finney Fitness Center Tuesday at noon as part of the ACS “I Can Do It” Success Series. Class is free of charge. For more information, call ACS at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Buy factory crystal

Sign up to go to Nachtmann Crystal Factory this Saturday. Transportation is free. Bus departs Wuerzburg Bldg. 5 at 7 a.m. and Schweinfurt Volksfestplatz at 7:45 a.m. Expected time of return is 6 p.m. For more information, or to sign up, call DSN 350-6305 or CIV 0931-889-6305.

Visit Frankenstein Castle

Sign up to go to Frankenstein Castle in Darmstadt Oct. 27 for children or Oct. 31 for adults. Transportation is free. Admission tickets must be purchased in advance for 22 euro each at SATO Travel office, Bldg. 224 on Ledward Barracks or Bldg. 14 on Leighton Barracks. Times of bus departure for both days are to be announced. To sign up, call DSN 350-6305 or CIV 0931-889-6305.

BOSS news

■ Join Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers at Kessler Fitness Center tomorrow from 3 to 7 p.m. for adult fun on the bungee run, Velcro wall, sumo wrestling, F-1 simulator, mechanical bull, and competitive gaming systems. Various reintegration classes will be held simultaneously. “This One’s For You” takes place once a month until February.

■ Come learn to play paintball at Conn Paintball Field Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

■ If you’re a mug collector or know someone who is, learn how to construct a mug shelf at Ledward Arts and Crafts Studio Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

■ Get free instruction about safety restraint at Conn Auto Skills Center Oct. 24 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

■ Try your hand at cosmic bowling at the Kessler Bowling Alley Oct. 26 from 10 p.m. to midnight.

For more information about these events, call BOSS president Sgt. James Smogonovich at DSN 354-6270 or CIV 0170-725-6464.

Midnight Madness at library

Come to the Ledward library Friday for an evening dedicated to night owls. The event starts at 6 p.m. and goes until midnight. The library will offer movies, computers, and lots of good reading for an evening of fun. For more information, call DSN 354-1740 or CIV 09721-96-1740.

Obtain a license to fish

Want to fish in Europe? Sign up in advance and attend the Outdoor Recreation 3-day class Friday through Sunday. Class begins Friday at 6 p.m., runs all day Saturday, and ends at approximately 4 p.m. on Sunday. Cost is \$60. For more information, call ODR at DSN 353-8080 or CIV 09721-96-8080.

Walk for breast cancer awareness this Saturday

Join the community on a 5-kilometer walk/run for breast cancer awareness month at Kessler Fitness Center Saturday starting at 9 a.m. Register in advance or on-site from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. the day of the event. Wear pink to show your support for this important cause. For more information, call the fitness center at DSN 354-6735 or CIV 09721-96-6735.

Parents enjoy a night out

Child and Youth Services is giving parents the night off Oct. 26 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Children will be cared for at no cost to families. It is open to all families with children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade. Children must be registered with CYS. Reservations must be made in advance in person. Program includes one meal. For more information, call CYS at DSN 354-6517/6414 or CIV 09721-96-6517/6414.

German language class

Join Army Community Service’s last beginner German language class of the year. Class is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and runs Monday through Nov. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To sign up, call ACS at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Pick your pumpkin

Go with Army Community Services to a pumpkin patch to pick out your favorite pumpkin for carving. Meet at the Leighton’s Yellow Ribbon Room in Wuerzburg Tuesday at 10 a.m. or at ACS Bldg. 242 at Schweinfurt’s Ledward Barracks Oct. 24 at 10 a.m. Children must be accompanied by a parent. Call ACS for more information, at Ledward call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933; Leighton call DSN 350-7103 or CIV 0931-889-7103.

Scrapbooking for the Family

Join Army Community Services for *Harvesting Family Memories*, a time of creating a scrapbook for the Family. Bring your whole Family to join in this project at Ledward Barracks’ Yellow Ribbon room Friday or Oct. 26 at Leighton Barracks Community Activities Center. Both events run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call ACS for more information at Ledward call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933; Leighton call DSN 350-7103 or CIV 0931-889-7103.

Travel with USO

Join USO on their trips around the country. USO offers two trips this month: Oct. 27 to Legoland and Oct. 26 to 28 Shopping Express to Boleslawiec, Poland. Trips depart Ledward Barracks, but Conn pick-up is also available. For prices and more information, call USO at DSN 354-6711 or CIV 09721-96-6711.



A picturesque view of the Greek mainland across the Straits of Corfu from a balcony table at one of the island’s beautiful hotels. Photos by Deborah Barrows

Get a taste of Greece with a visit to Corfu



A beautifully manicured park is just one of the things that makes Corfu Town a special place to visit.



This majestic peak stands just off the island of Paxos. Even being so close to the shore, the channel in between is very deep.



The Attika Beach Hotel pool area backs right up next to the shore of the Ionian Sea.

by **GARRY BARROWS**
Bavarian News

The Greek island of Corfu, located just off the mainland near the Albanian border is a beautiful tropical island with plenty to do. There is little or no rain in the summer, meaning good hot weather and great food. It is also an outstanding travel value with an easy direct flight from Nuremberg.

Greek chefs were planned the menu and prepared the food at our hotel. And it was really excellent. Pasta salads, rice and vegetable salads, eggplant salads, and even a Lefkimi salad. Lefkimi is the nearby town and mailing address of the hotel and Head Waiter Yannis Zervos called it “a salad of vegetables from the area,” as it contained locally cultivated products including potatoes, beans, carrots, onions, and zucchini.

For breakfast, there was homemade Greek yogurt. At other times, there were grape leaves, feta cheese in huge blocks, Mousaka, Pastitsio, and numerous other brilliant homemade Greek and Mediterranean specialties.

Corfu is an island of 247 square miles off the northernmost part of the Greek mainland just at the Albanian border. The Straits of Corfu vary from 1.6 miles to over 50 miles wide in separating the island from the mainland. The main industry is tourism and olive production with some of the trees being more than 250 years old. Olive trees produce every second year with 2008 being the next harvest year.

The weather is clear and hot in June, July, and August with 90 degrees being considered chilly. In our seven days, we saw a cloud once.

The scenery is breathtaking with the coastline of the Greek mainland, the primary viewing vista of the more highly populated east side of the island being mountainous, rustic and magnificent.

A tremendous amount of history has taken place in this part of the world and Corfu has been right in it. Sadly the Corfiots were seldom on the winning side and seemingly every other page of the history reviews have some mention of “without mercy” or “particularly savage”. It was actually quite peaceful the entire time during our visit and there is significant optimism for the next few years.

Many people choose to rent a car and travel about the island. The more adventurous will brave the 24/7 bars of Kavos. Others will book guided tours to view some of the more interesting places on and near Corfu.

We chose the latter and had a nice time taking a boat ride, or ocean voyage as the brochure proclaimed, to Paxos and Antipaxos. These two islands are due south of Corfu and feature some rugged and spectacular coastline along with sea caves, openings in the

coastline made over hundreds, even thousands of years of pounding surf. The trip was smooth, calm, and sunny as we toured the coastline and then headed to Antipaxos to swim in a hidden cove of crystal clear water.

After the swim, we sailed to Gaios, the quaint capital of Paxos where you might see yachts and private aircraft of the rich and famous. For our part, we found a fresh seafood restaurant and with the help of a liter of excellent Greek wine, were completely comfortable sitting on the shores of the Ionian Sea enjoying the trade winds and the serene beauty of the island.

The capital city, Corfu Town, is an interesting place with equal parts of history and tourism. There are two forts, the new fort and the old fort, highlighting the violent aspects of some of the island’s history.

In addition, there are many restaurants offering delectable Greek specialties along with dozens of boutiques and shops selling souvenirs including the local bottled spirit made with a small fruit called a Kumquat and a fine variety of clothes, jewelry, and resort wear.

The daylong excursion to Albania was fascinating. Arriving at the coast city of Saranda, we took a tour of Butrinti, Albania’s only UNESCO site. Butrinti is an ancient city of many historical residents with the Greeks being among the first in the 4th Century B.C.

Soon came the Romans who took control about 168 B.C. beginning a six-century reign that included a visit from Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. The excavation is extensive with as much as 20 percent of the oldest parts of the city unearthed. Archeologists were working while we toured the area. The visit was very gratifying and well worth the effort.

On the way to Butrinti, we passed a large salt lake with what looked like remnants of old wooden docks extending into the water in many places. We were told they were not remnants, but facilities for the cultivating of mussels, a delicious mollusk similar to a clam.

During lunch at a comfortable restaurant right on the harbor of the city, we were told fresh mussels from the lake were available in many forms. They were fabulous and could easily be what Albania will be famous for in years to come.

Naturally, there are many other places to see and explore in and around Corfu in addition to the ones we chose.

The hotel my wife and I stayed at was a very enjoyable resort. It was located in a remote, but picturesque area. On-site entertainment was limited as the hotel promotes beach fun and outdoor activities. The highlight of the week’s entertainment was a group performing native Greek dances that ended with a man lifting a burning table with his teeth and spinning around.



Literally thousands of years of the surf pounding on the mountainous shore of the island of Paxos has produced a number of sea caves like this one.



The reclamation of the city of Butrinti, Albania’s only UNESCO site, makes for a great day trip to see a place once visited by Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. The large stones behind the doorway are from the 4th century B.C.



The crystal clear water surrounding Corfu is refreshing and beautiful. It’s no wonder that resorts in the area promote spending time outdoors over organized activities.

Local troops help figure COLA rates

As economy changes in U.S., overseas, COLA can increase, decrease, remain same

by JIM HUGHES
Bavarian News

About 12 community Soldiers will hit the local shops in Ansbach and Illesheim as part of the Cost Of Living Allowance Market Basket Survey Oct. 24-26 to help determine COLA rates for the garrison footprint.

The annual survey is part of the system the Department of Defense Per Diem Committee uses to determine COLA rates at each installation, said Brenda Braswell, USAG Ansbach civilian misconduct actions specialist and COLA survey organizer.

Soldiers will be trained on COLA and how to conduct the survey Oct. 23, and then sent to stores to analyze costs of about 120 items that run the gamut from bread to hygiene products to dry cleaning to movie tickets.

COLA Explained

Often talked about and often misunderstood, Braswell said it's important to understand what COLA is and how it is determined.

"COLA is a supplement designed to equalize the purchasing power between service members overseas and their CONUS-based counterparts," she said. "The average COLA at Ansbach is \$300, but it is based on many factors including rank, years of service and number of Family members."

COLA rates are set using the living pattern survey that is held every three years, the annual

retail price schedule determined by analyzing the market basket of goods and services purchased overseas compared to those same goods and services purchased in the U.S. during the same time period, and currency exchange rates, Braswell said.

More to Consider

Many people think that since the dollar is steadily losing ground to the Euro, the COLA rates at Ansbach should be rising to compensate, but there's more to consider, Braswell said.

As economic conditions change in the U.S. and overseas, COLA can increase, decrease or remain the same, she said.

"When prices increase in the U.S., the COLA offset will be lower as a result of the similarity in market basket prices between overseas and CONUS locations," Braswell said. "COLA can be adjusted as often as twice a month for the rate of exchange, but only the portion of COLA based on foreign currency is adjusted."

So, while the dollar continues its decline against the Euro, prices rising in the States can offset any gain COLA would provide.

Also, with the dollar falling, many military community members are retreating to their installations to do their shopping, which, when noted on the living pattern survey, causes the COLA benefit to go down as well, Braswell said.

But with limited services in Ansbach combined with the AAFES facilities downsizing and later shutting down in Wurzburg, many

people are forced to go on the economy for things like dry cleaning, and other goods and services.

That makes people participating in the surveys and accurately portraying purchasing on the economy critical, said Master Sgt. Sheri Jackson, a trainer of the teams that will go out in the market basket survey.

"We all know that mission comes first; however, we can't perform our mission if we have Soldiers and their Families who are going out on the economy trying to spend money for groceries and they're having a hard time paying for it," Jackson said. "That Soldier is not going to be focused when they come to work because they're wondering how they're going to feed their family."

Making an Investment

"By participating in these surveys, the community benefits, the Soldiers benefit, the Families benefit—it's investing in the future," she added.

The living pattern survey conducted online in Ansbach in 2005 and the Per Diem Committee determined what stores will be visited and also what items the Soldiers will analyze the costs of, Braswell said.

That data will then be put into a report and sent off to the Per Diem Committee and will affect 2008's COLA for Ansbach Soldiers.

"The main point is to make it accurate, make it fair and make it appropriate—then our COLA

will come out as it is meant to be whether that is an increase, a decrease, or it stays the same," Braswell said.

Making a Difference

One Soldier on the team, Staff Sgt. Tracey Regec, is excited about the opportunity to take part in a process she hears Soldiers question a lot. She said Soldiers who work for her were disgruntled one day recently about how low the COLA is at Ansbach.

"I submitted a customer comment on COLA at 10 a.m., and then at 2 p.m. Sergeant Jackson called me up and offered me a spot on the team," Regec said. "It worked out perfectly. Now I'll be better armed when Soldiers come to me about COLA—I'm excited about it."

"When I do it, I will make sure it will be accurate and do my best to portray the shopping experience for Soldiers here," she added. "And when COLA comes out next year, whatever the outcome—lower or higher—then I know that it was done appropriately and that makes me feel much better."

Regec added that she sees the survey helping out the local community, too.

"If the rates rise and people are more comfortable shopping on the economy, it will help the local business," she said, adding that those on the shopping mission will have translated cards explaining what they're doing to give to store managers. "I think it will be a win-win situation for the Germans and Americans."

ISCC invites community members to join, attend meetings

by RONALD H. TOLAND JR
Bavarian News

The Illesheim Spouses and Civilians Club is looking for some good people to help give back to the community.

ISCC is best known for putting on the annual bazaar at Storck Barracks, but there's a lot more to the club than just the bazaar, said President Michelle Miller.

"We are a community service organization that raises money to support our Illesheim community with fundraisers," she said. "We raise money through our Ways and Means sales at our programs that take place each month where we sell Polish pottery and crystal, plus a line of clothing items with our Illesheim Apache symbol."

Giving back to the community is the goal of the club, Miller said, adding that the Red Cross, Boy and Girl Scouts Army Community Service, Bright Eyes, schools, DARE, the chapel, the medical and dental

clinics, scholarships, tree lighting ceremony, and many other groups benefit from the club's fundraising efforts.

But there is also a social aspect to the club, but one that's different from the wives' clubs of the past.

"It's not only an officer's wives' club," says Victoria Lamb, club treasurer. "This private organization consists of and is open to other community members as well."

She said club membership is open to all spouses and civilians in the community ages 18 and older who would like to join and help out.

This year looks to be just as successful as past years for the club, as the Illesheim Block Party in August and September club year knockoff both proved to be major hits with the community, Miller said.

"We had an awesome turnout at the Block Party and we are so excited about this year's board and our growing membership!"

And if giving back to the community and spending time with

good people isn't enough to motivate people to join those who make a difference at Storck Barracks, there are always the prizes up for grabs as additional incentive, said Miller.

"ISCC's programs are famous for raffling off fabulous prizes," she said. "The prizes at the September kick-off ice cream social were pottery items, and the winners loved the gorgeous pottery pieces we gave away."

As with any group that helps the community, to be effective ISCC needs people who are willing to do their part.

Kimberly Vega recently signed on as the programs chair and the club's next event is Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kanapee restaurant in Urfersheim.

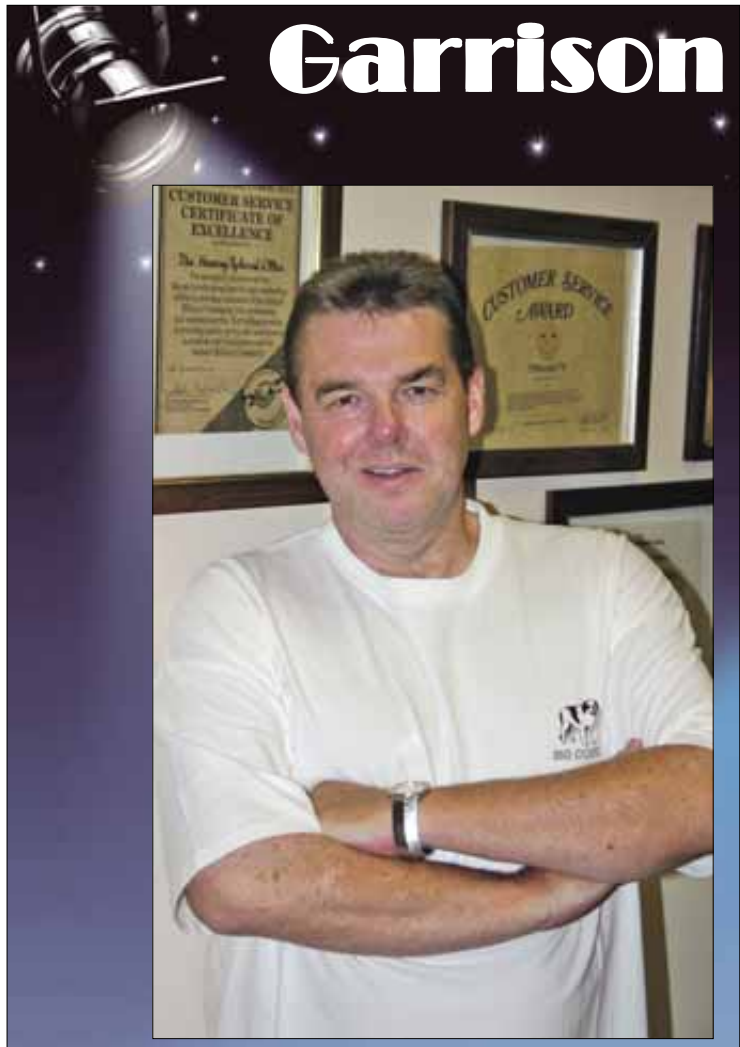
"The programs chair position is filled; however, if anyone is interested in a position on the board it isn't too late," Miller said. "Come see what's available at the October event—it's a great way to get involved in the community and to round out your resume."



File photo

Shoppers contemplate a purchase at the Illesheim Bazaar in April. The Illesheim Spouses and Civilians Club puts on the annual bazaar and runs other fundraisers and social events to benefit the entire community.

People who would like to join the club or attend the October event to find out more should contact Miller at CIV 0170-949-9112 or michelle.i.miller@us.army.mil to find out more.



Garrison Spotlight

USAG Ansbach leadership recognizes employees for a job well done and excellent customer service in the Garrison Spotlight.

Peter Pabler, directorate of public works housing inspector, constantly provides exceptional customer service for a diverse military community. It is not always an easy task, but Pabler excels at it.

Pabler works to make the housing transition in and out for Soldiers easy as possible. "Treat everybody the way I would like to be treated—it shows that I care," is Pabler's customer service philosophy. "The way you present something is mostly the way you get it back—it is what I get paid for and that is important."

And many customers appreciate the effort.

"I was very impressed by the way Peter handled our situation. He was very professional and upfront on what we had to do in order to make sure we had a successful move out of Germany," one satisfied customer wrote about a pre-inspection. Anna M. Psaila, Pabler's supervisor, said he is "a dedicated housing employee with high principles for whom the housing creed to provide only the best to housing customers is a law. He represents our organization in an outstanding manner."

Club Beyond kicks off season

by JIM HUGHES
Bavarian News

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach's Club Beyond kicked off its 2007-08 program with a little boot scootin' boogie to match its country and western theme Oct. 3 at the high school.

Club Beyond invited middle and high school students to join in the kickoff for fun, games, and country and western line dance lessons from a dance team from Sachsen.

Club Beyond is hosted by the garrison chaplain and meets weekly during the school year.

Whether it's conducting skits, playing games, singing, or presenting a spiritually-oriented talk, Club Beyond staff and volunteers "try to live with kids—show them there is an alternative out there to things they shouldn't be doing and to just love them where they're at," said Rene Payne, the club director.

Separate club meetings are held weekly for high school students as well as junior high/middle school students in most locations.

Club Beyond also hosts service projects in which groups from different installations go to countries and help out the local populace.

"The last three years, we at

Ansbach have gone to Slovakia," Payne said. "This year we'll be going to Poland. Another big event is Beach Break Italy which happens right after the students get out for summer break."

Put those big events with ski trips, paintball, trips to water parks and the normal weekly events, and you have a big year for Club Beyond, Payne added.

"People who missed the kickoff event can drop by any time—just show up," he said. "Just come up to us and sign up for the events."

2007 List of Events

- **Game Nights at Illesheim**
- **Middle School Club: Every Wednesday 3:30-5 p.m. at the high school cafeteria**
- **High School Club: Every Wednesday 5:30-7 p.m. at high school cafeteria**
- **Middle school small groups at Katterbach on the first and third Tuesdays 4-5:30 p.m. at the chapel**

The groups meet in Illesheim the second and fourth Tuesdays, 4:30-6 p.m. at the club room above ACS.

HS small groups start Oct. 18. To join or for more information, call CIV 0160-9628-1276, 0160-94941855, or 09802-83-2685.

Soldiers’ mural honors fallen comrades

by Sgt. 1st Class CHRIS SEATON
12th CAB Public Affairs

Spc. Argenis Lugo said he grew up in the Bronx, N.Y., with a passion for graffiti. He specializes in names and figures; he stays away from faces in his work. He says that he wants his art to tell a story without individual expression.

And Lugo has a story to tell. On Sept. 11, 2001, he was at school when he heard the tragic news that a plane had hit New York’s World Trade Center. Like the rest of America, he stopped to look. While most of the world watched on TV, Lugo stood in the backyard of his own high school—a firsthand witness as America and his own life changed forever.

“We heard about it on the radio and went outside and watched the smoke go up,” Lugo said. Six years later, Lugo, now a Soldier in Task Force XII’s Company D, 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment (Attack), still has that passion for graffiti, and people are still suffering and dying in Iraq, his new back yard.

When the time came for Co. D to put a personal touch on their aircraft maintenance hangar on Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq, Lugo and his platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Billy Maloney had an idea. “I just like to draw,” Lugo said. “I mentioned it to my platoon sergeant because he’s always talking about the 1st Infantry Division and all the guys they’ve lost in the war.” Maloney, a fellow New Yorker, says he saw the opportunity to do something he considered special. “There’s a lot of pictures painted

on walls here,” he said. “But we wanted to remember 9/11 and the Soldiers in Schweinfurt who have lost so many.”

Maloney was stationed in Illesheim, current home of the 2-159th, when the towers went down. He watched on television as his friends and neighbors in New York struggled with tragedy. “I saw the towers being built as a kid,” he said. “It’s still hard for me to believe they’re gone.”

Since then, thousands of service members have given their lives in support of the Global War on Terror and too many of those Soldiers, he says, are from Germany’s 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

The Dagger Brigade, as it’s called, is stationed in the Schweinfurt community, just 45 minutes away from Maloney’s home in Illesheim. Since the beginning of their current deployment to Iraq, 2nd Brigade has endured the deadliest deployment of any Europe-based U.S. military brigade in Iraq. As of late September, 59 of their members had died in combat.

“I have several friends there,” Maloney said. “I always hold my breath every time I open the newspaper because I’m afraid I might see another name of a Soldier from Schweinfurt.”

Lugo and Spc. Blake Skinner, another member of Maloney’s platoon, took their platoon sergeant’s constant reminders of why they serve and turned them into a graphic reminder for fellow Soldiers.

“I want people to stop and look, and think ‘that’s the reason we’re out here,’” Skinner said. “I want them to remember the people we lost and the Soldiers that have fallen.”



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Little

Spc. Argenis Lugo and Spc. Blake Skinner stand by their recently-completed mural at the Co. D, 2nd Bn. 159th Avn. Regt. (Attack) hangar at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq. The two Soldiers painted the mural as a tribute to Schweinfurt, Germany’s 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, fighting in Iraq.

They started the project in September, around the sixth anniversary of 9/11. The wall took about three weeks to complete while the Soldiers scavenged for paint and supplies to get it done. Their mural, inside an old Iraqi hardened aircraft shelter, shows a depiction of smoke billowing from the twin towers on the left and the image

of a 1st ID Soldier kneeling at a memorial of fallen comrades on the right. The two pictures are separated by a crack representing a fractured history, and held together by the nation’s colors and an image of the Statue of Liberty to represent freedom. “One side is the high price of

terrorism to our country, and the other shows the Schweinfurt Soldiers, and the ongoing price that we are still paying today,” Maloney said. “People need to remember that there are still Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines laying down their lives every day here,” he said. “This mural reminds us of what was, and what still is.”

SORT education making a difference Seefried: Correct sorting decreases recycling costs, manpower for garrison, schools

by RONALD H. TOLAND JR
Bavarian News

The garrison’s environmental management division recently toured the community’s schools to promote recycling and a healthy environment to USAG Ansbach youth. Jutta Seefried, environmental assistant and Separate or Recycle Trash program manager, said the tour was to educate students and also check up on the recycling programs at the schools.

“This presented us a chance to provide SORT information to the students in the case of sorting food waste as well as plastic, metal cans, and liquids,” she said. “It also enabled us to position the required recycling containers around the school.” Seefried first gave students at each school a class on SORT and helped them properly dispose of their recyclable lunch items.

“Correct sorting means easier recycling,” Seefried said. “By assisting and coordinating with the school children with what recyclables go in what container instead of mixing all recyclables in one container, the contractor has fewer problems with having to re-sort recyclables. This decreases the work needed and also the costs to recycle for the garrison and the schools.”

Seefried rated the Rainbow Elementary School students as top recyclers. “Chuck Callahan, the principal, provided the best support because his older students took care of the younger students during lunch time and they all did a very good job,” she said. “The elementary school in Illesheim came in a close second because they are also good sorters.” She cited Illesheim’s Nadine Wilkins, school library staff member, and Stefanie Lemaster, school nurse, for working with students and helping

them sort their lunch waste. But Seefried did find recycling issues at some of the schools. “Plastic spoons, knives, forks, and other recyclable materials were found in the container for food waste. This is absolutely prohibited,” she said. “Food waste will ultimately be delivered to the biogas plant in Wuerzburg for recycling. The wrong objects can stop the machines or result in the breakdown of the equipment.” To rectify that, Seefried and her team will keep educating students on SORT and seek SORT volunteers from the schools to demonstrate the process. Seefried will also head up a SORT

contest at the elementary schools in March where she will brief the students on the program, play recycling games with them and hold a contest. And on Earth Day in April, she plans to take students on a forest excursion to give them an up close and personal look at the environment and how their actions can affect it. “We think this should help the students understand why it is important to sort food waste,” she said. “I am glad to have the opportunity to coordinate this procedure because it integrates the schools into the community’s recycling program.”



By Jutta Seefried

Older students at Rainbow Elementary School on Barton Barracks help younger ones determine where to put their recyclables during lunch. RES students were rated as “top recyclers” during a recent visit by Separate or Recycle Trash officials.

Garrison looking for people who will make a difference

Story and photo by
RONALD H. TOLAND JR
Bavarian News

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach is looking for its community members to turn out and make a difference Oct. 27. Volunteerism and making the community better is what Make a Difference Day is all about, said Erika Turner, Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program manager and Acting Army Volunteer Corps coordinator. Annual Make a Difference Day is the brainchild and creation of USA Weekend Magazine and is a national day of caring or giving every fourth Saturday in October. “The idea for this year is to profit the community at large during this challenging time,” Turner said. “Spouses of deployed Soldiers will benefit later in the spring when they see the fruits of their efforts now. And when our Soldiers return, we want them to return to an improved and nicer community.”

Volunteers will assemble at 8:30 a.m. at the Katterbach and Illesheim Yellow Ribbon rooms to sign up, enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, pastries, and get ready to beautify their community. “This year we want to improve, beautify and clean up three specific areas: the gazebo area by the Yellow Ribbon Room on Katterbach—planting bushes, low-maintenance plants, and yellow flower bulbs in the shape of a yellow ribbon in front of the ACS building; give the installation sign across the street some pizzazz by planting some flowers around it; and improve the Wounded Warrior barracks by cleaning up the exterior area surrounding the barracks; and plant bulbs and bushes. “In Illesheim, the plan is to do the same thing by cleaning up and improving the two memorial parks there, by cleaning the ground area and any seating areas, and plant flower

bulbs and bushes. All plants and materials are supplied by the directorate of public works,” Turner added. In 2005, the garrison used Make a Difference Day to raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims. “The feeling of affecting others’ lives in a positive nature, a sense of accomplishment with no payback, giving ones time to help other people and the community, is what I enjoy and the point of ACS, I believe,” Turner said. Turner’s personal goal is to win the \$10,000 grand prize and a write-up for the community in the USA Weekend Magazine. “We are thinking about possibly buying an electronic marquee with the winnings, but the decision is ultimately up to the garrison commander,” she said. After the projects, a recognition ceremony will be held for volunteers. For more on Make a Difference Day, call Turner at DSN 467-2883 or CIV 09802-83-2883.



File photo

Community volunteers raised \$1,900 for Hurricane Katrina victims in 2005.

Garrison transformations will not decrease commitment to community

This is, as you may know, the first time I'm addressing you in this forum. I want to start off by highlighting a few things about this garrison. Our main focus and reason for being is the support and wellbeing of our Soldiers and Families. Each and every member of the garrison team supports our war fighters and their Families in one way or another—customer service is our business. However, the reality is the support and services we provide are shaped by both our organization and our funding, and so I want to talk to you about these two things in greater detail. As many of you know we are in the process of significantly changing our garrison. As of Oct. 1, we are a direct reporting garrison and no longer have an intermediate headquarters that controls our budget or personnel actions. Additionally, we are simultaneously undergoing another transformation.



This transformation is intended to standardize garrison organization and support that the Soldiers and Family members receive from all Army garrisons worldwide. This transformation involves the implementation of the Standard Garrison Organization and the Common Levels of Support. In the end, the standardization of these services is about improving quality of life no matter where a Soldier is assigned; they expect and will eventually receive (as SGO and CLS are implemented) the same level of support and services from any garrison. I think you will be happy to know that we are already structured in compliance with the Standard Garrison Organization, and so we will not see any significant changes in the structure of our garrison as it exists right now. Additionally, the vast majority of the

“We are committed to ensuring that our employees and our customers know what to expect as we align our programs and services.”

support and services we provide are in compliance with the Common Levels of Support. However, The CLS not only defines which support and services we provide, but also the level, or standard, that we provide them too. The important thing to realize is that our funding is directly tied to the CLS. Therefore, when it comes to implementing the CLS, we can expect to see changes resulting from the alignment of our support and service with the CLS and also from the tailoring of the levels of support and services we provide to our funding allocation level. The leadership of the garrison met a few weeks ago to align our mission, vision, and goals with those of our headquarters, Installation Management Command Europe, and to align our services and programs with common levels of support. We are committed to ensuring that our employees and our customers know what to expect as we align our programs and services. We are getting smarter and better at identifying and providing the things Soldiers and Families need to enjoy a successful and pleasant stay here in Bamberg. We are getting better by improving what we do for you and we are getting smarter by improving how we do business. Your input and involvement is crucial to our success. Bamberg is a community of choice. We encourage you to get involved and to join us, the garrison team, in our effort to build a “one-Family Army community.” Your active participation will speed up the process of becoming one team supporting one fight. If you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to see me during my open door hours on Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. USAG Bamberg works every day so Soldiers and Families can say: “Bamberg was the greatest community I have ever lived in.”

*Lt. Col. Gary Rosenberg
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Bamberg*

Health clinic offering monthly tobacco cessation courses

by LORI COLE
Health Promotion Intern

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Despite this well publicized health risk, approximately 45.1 million American adults continue to smoke cigarettes. According to the Center for Disease Control, an estimated 438,000 Americans die prematurely from smoking or exposure to second hand smoke each year. An additional 8.6 million have a serious illness caused by smoking. The dangers of tobacco products do not stop with cigarettes. Smokeless tobacco, pipes and cigars all pose deadly health risks including lung, esophageal, larynx, and oral cancers. “Tobacco kills and the Bamberg Army Health Clinic wants to help people quit their addiction to tobacco,” said Maj. Tina Streker, Bamberg’s Army public health nurse. Not only is tobacco use hazardous to an individual’s health, it also creates a significant financial burden for the American public. On a yearly basis, the United States pays more than \$75 billion in medical expenses and an additional \$92 billion resulting from lost productivity in the workplace. Within the home, long-time smokers often create health hardships for their families. Tobacco usage poses an undeniable readiness issue for our Soldiers and active duty military. To help you put the “butt-out” the Bamberg Health Clinic is offering Tobacco Cessation courses beginning Oct. 23 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The course consists of two sessions and will continue monthly on the fourth Tuesday of every month, except December. Anyone who is interested in becoming tobacco free can attend the

Tobacco Cessation course including; military ID holders, Department of the Army civilians, and local national employees. The first session, covers understanding addiction and creating a plan to prepare to quit. The second session offered from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., also on the fourth Tuesday of the month, discusses mastering the obstacles of quitting and living a tobacco free lifestyle. The tobacco cessation program includes a consultation with a health care provider to determine if nicotine replacement therapy (patches) or the prescription medication Zyban is appropriate for the participant. Contact the Bamberg Health Clinic to sign up for the course at DSN 469-7772. Additional online tobacco cessation resources can be found at www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit_smoking/index.htm, www.ucanquit2.org/ and www.smokefree.gov/index.asp.

Are you compromising the mission?

Smoking can adversely affect the warfighter in many ways:

- Decreased night vision
- Decreased ability to deal with stress
- Decreased fine motor coordination
- Decreased stamina
- Decreased mental acuity
- Decreased lung capacity
- Decreased wound healing
- Increased need for water
- Increased injuries

Don't let smoking decrease your effectiveness. Make an appointment to attend the Tobacco Cessation Course by calling DSN 469-7772.



AFTB welcomes new instructors
September was a great month for the Bamberg Army Family Team Building program. Thirteen participants who attended Army 101, 102, and 103 took the next step and completed a three-day instructor training course. Master Trainers Cynthia Giesecke, Karen Spitzer, Theresa Daniels, and Bonnie Cornelison worked with the participants to fine tune their instructional skills by covering topics such as “Speaking On Your Feet”, “Platform Skills”, and “Classroom Management.” Find out what AFTB classes can do for you. The next course offerings will be Army 103: Nov. 5-7; Army 101: Nov. 27-28; and Master Training Course: Dec. 10-14. Call Army Community Service for more information at DSN 469-7777. AFTB’s new instructors are Danielle Hochberg, Pamela Johnson, Valerie Evans, Ellen Blahovec, Joana Linares, Yajaira Guardo, Silke Price, Chris Keene, Tammie Mills, TamAra Starks, Jacqueline Tina Porter, Kristie Casey, and Kelley Hayward.



Home again!
Thirteen Soldiers from 38th Personnel Services Battalion, Charlie Detachment, stand in formation Oct.10 - moments before being released to their Families and friends at Warner Barracks. After a 14-month deployment, the Soldiers rejoined the majority of their unit which returned Sept. 14.

Staff ride reveals history of battalion, WWII battle

by JAMES FREDRICK
Special to the Bavarian News

In the autumn of 1944, members of the 1340th Engineer Battalion participated in one of the most important battles of World War II.

Some 63 years later, leadership from the 54th Engineer Battalion, which draws its lineage from the 1340th, retraced the steps of their predecessors.

The four-day trip was led by Klaus R Schultz. Schultz, a German veteran of World War II who was captured by Allied forces, now specializes in military history.

He has conducted numerous tours and serves as an instructor for the U.S. Army Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers development program.

During the tour the group visited several significant sites from the Battle of Huertgen Forest, one of the longest single battles of the war, lasting from September 1944 to February 1945, with both sides suffering heavy losses.

Soldiers were allowed to use a metal detector during the tour to search for remnants of the battle and important artifacts from their battalion's history.

In what looked like an old foxhole,

Sgt. 1st Class Ryszard Sahli uncovered U.S. rifle casings and an ammunition clip, most likely fired in defense of the position.

Both items are now being logged with the battalion's historian.

In an unexpected moment, the group came upon an U.S. Army team recovering two recently discovered bodies of American Soldiers killed in the battle.

"It was very interesting," said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Wingard. "It brought a sense of reality to our trip."

In addition to exploring the Huertgen area, members of the 54th saw part of the historic Siegfried line. The Siegfried line, known as the West Wall, was a heavily fortified barrier built by the Germans to stave off the invasion.

The group also crossed the border into Belgium where they visited Fort Eben-Emael and a U.S. cemetery.

To pay their respects, staff ride members placed coins on the graves of seven Soldiers from the 1340th Eng. Bn.

At the end of the trip, Lt. Col. Christopher Lestochi and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Defenbaugh presented Schultz with a plaque, expressing appreciation for his excellent work in sharing his experience and knowledge.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Wingard

Klaus Schultz, a German veteran, captured by Allied forces in World War II, stands with leadership from the 54th Engineer Battalion at the scene of a historic maneuver site. Schultz was the group's guide during a staff ride Sept. 12 - 15 near the Belgian-German border.

Postcards from The Front

"Postcards from the Front" are provided courtesy of the 173d ABCT Public Affairs Office downrange. Check back regularly to see if your Soldier is featured sending a message home to you! Postcards will also be broadcast on the Bamberg Command Information Channel (Channel 1 in housing).



Hello to all my family and friends, be back home soon.

Spc. Derek Wimmer
HHB, 4th Battalion,
319th Airborne Field
Artillery Regiment



Thanks to all my family and friends for your support!

Sgt. 1st Class Frank Luedtke
HHB, 4th Battalion,
319th Airborne Field
Artillery Regiment



I hope everyone is well. Keeping real busy. Love You All!

Sgt. Jason L. Habich
Golf Battery, 4th Battalion,
319th Airborne Field
Artillery Regiment



To my loving wife, I love you. To all my friends and family, I love you too.

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Beck
HHB, 4th Battalion,
319th Airborne Field
Artillery Regiment

Faulenberg returned to German authorities

Story and photo by **ROGER TEEL**
Bavarian News

Wuerzburg’s Faulenberg Kaserne, a military installation since 1877 and home to American Soldiers since 1947, was officially returned to the German government Sept. 27.

In its early days, the kaserne was a German army headquarters and stable. When the Americans moved in after World War II, Faulenberg Kaserne became home to U.S. Army, Europe’s quartermaster laundry service and to a number of regional command headquarters, including the 98th Area Support Group, the Army’s Regional Contracting Office, the Army’s Criminal Intelligence Command, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

Returning the kaserne to German authorities was bittersweet for many of the Army agents responsible for doing so.

Maria Assaad worked on Faulenberg for 31 years. Now, as chief of real estate operations with the U.S. Army Garrison, Schweinfurt, Directorate of Public Works, she was responsible for all facets of the closure and passed the keys to the kaserne to its new German owners.

Assaad will oversee the return of all other area installations, including the Wuerzburg Army hospital later this year and Leighton Barracks next year.

“It’s stressful,” she said, summarizing the effort to close and return the installation.. “It’s like stepping into another life. We have a saying in German that when something falls, it’s a chance to make a new beginning. That’s what’s happening here.”

Assaad assisted Johann Neumann from the German Bundesanstalt fur Immo

bidienaufgaben, the German official estate property office, as he chained the front gate. Two DPW trucks and a forklift were the last Army vehicles to exit the kaserne.

“Wuerzburg has always been a friendly host town, a very friendly city,” said Fred Rashnavadi, master planner for USAG Schweinfurt DPW, echoing sentiments expressed by many Americans during recent

installation closures.

Rashnavadi, from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., has lived in the Wuerzburg area since 1994. A former Army aviator, he was stationed at nearby Giebelstadt Airfield before retiring from active duty and taking on his new role.

Rashnavadi is responsible for planning and coordinating details for all installation closures, including those at Kitzingen’s Harvey and Larson Barracks, and Giebelstadt Airfield in the past year.

“The whole place has to be empty. We had to find remaining tenants new homes, then all the furniture and property book items are turned in after being cross-leveled with other installations that may want it,” he said, outlining

only a few requirements of shutting down an installation.

“The buildings have to be empty and broom swept, that’s all,” added Reiner Loeffler, from the Army’s Installation Management Office in Munich.

There was optimism that the kaserne might serve a useful purpose in

the coming years.

“In my opinion, in Wuerzburg they can do something with the real estate. It’s not like in other communities where (the installations are) just collecting dust because the infrastructure is not in place to develop them,” observed James Crider, a veteran of 26 years with USAG Schweinfurt’s DPW.

The day was perhaps most bittersweet for Peter Bonnet, the former DPW chief of utilities at Faulenberg. Employed by the U.S. Army since 1973, Bonnet was keen to point out many innovations and maintenance projects that had taken place on the kaserne.

“When I started in 1973, we had 150 boiler firemen who shoveled coal into furnaces on Hindenberg Kaserne and Emory and Leighton Barracks. Faulenberg used heating oil, except for Bldg. 220,” he said.

“We did a sewer study a number of years ago and found there are seven inlets to the city’s sewer system. Most of the sewers are like those you’d find in London,” he continued.

He recalled the construction of the installation’s transformer stations 29 years ago

in order to accommodate American 110-volt requirements.

Bonnet was most proud of the high-pressure steam plant near the kaserne’s main entrance, saying the plant can produce 15 tons of steam per hour to warm the installation and also power the quartermaster laundry facility. He noted the soft water production element, vital to the laundry service, was built the same time as the steam plant.

“Americans have always been fair employers and it was nice working here,” Bonnet said. “And there’s still much to do.”

Rashnavadi recalled directing a project to refit all the plumbing in the laundry facility.

“The plumbing was pre-World War II, made of lead, and leaking everywhere. The project called for putting in all new steam lines, at a cost of \$130,000. When it was finished, the project cut the installation’s energy bill by more than half. The project paid for itself in three months,” Rashnavadi said.

Representing American interests at the facility turnover were – ironically — mostly German employees working for the U.S. Army. They passed the keys to a group of local BIMA officials, including Hans Tranitz, chief of Wuerzburg’s BIMA office, Soren Wolk and Roland Albert, facility managers, Petra Bauer, property sales, and Gregor Neeb, real estate inspector. Neeb once worked as a steam fitter on Faulenberg before moving on to a position in the German government.

Norbert Gallena, representing the Wuerzburg Staatliches Bauamt, fielded two teams of five specialized inspectors who examined not only the heat, water, and electric utilities, but also the streets, water drainage, and landscape. His office cleared the installation for return to the Germans.

Pressed for a comment about the number of Americans who have left the area, Gallena said, “For many years it was said, ‘Amis go home.’ Now, for the past couple of years, it’s been, ‘Amis please stay.’”



Maria Assaad, chief of real estate for USAG Schweinfurt DPW, right, and Johann Neumann from the German Bundesanstalt fur Immo
bidenaufgaben, German’s official estate property office, chain the front gate after the installation was cleared.

Junior Honor Society students lend a hand

Story and photo by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Spending time in a hospital because of illness, injury, or surgery can be a drag and often a lonely stint for any significant amount of time.

In efforts to curb negative feelings associated with hospital visits, the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt has created comfort kits for Soldiers and Family members who are hospitalized.

“It’s a ‘Hey we’re thinking of you,’” said Karen Rose, National Junior Honor Society advisor.

Schweinfurt Middle School’s NJHS was asked to assemble 60 of these kits as part of a service project. The student members gathered Wednesday afternoon to stuff bags with toiletry items, including combs, razors, shampoo, and toothpaste, as well as a hand-made get well card.

“I would feel better if I wouldn’t have to buy all this stuff,” said EJ Bagtas, eighth-grader and student president of NJHS, about how he would feel if he received a kit.

Assembling the kits was just the beginning

of a new school year of service projects for NJHS. In previous years the club has visited senior citizen homes, collected food for animal shelters, held book and clothes drives, and assisted in programs and assemblies at the school.

“You get to do things that you don’t usually do as a regular student,” said Bagtas.

Not only does NJHS participation broaden the students’ repertoires of skills, but membership also looks good on a resume and can be a stepping stone for a job in the future, said Rose.

“They get to see what it’s like to be in the spotlight,” said Rose. “I see them grow in their leadership abilities during the course of their time in NJHS.”

In the midst of all of its activities, NJHS teaches students responsibility, model citizenship, and skills to become a leader and speaker. An added bonus is how much students enjoy being a part of the organization.

“(I like) everything we get to do with the community and the school,” said seventh grader Mathieu Colon-Torres.

(From left) Schweinfurt Middle School’s National Junior Honor Society members Peter Abbey, Rafael de Almeida, Ryle Francisco, EJ Bagtas, and LaDonte Evans fill kits that will be given to hospitalized community members.



Pvt. Ruben McClain of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Squadron, 18th Infantry Regiment, and wife Kryn check out the new ACS travel corner binders to get tips on vacation planning.

Photo by
Koreen August-Hines

Need help planning your vacation? It’s closer than you think; browse Schweinfurt’s ACS travel binders

by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Need some ideas on where to travel? Or perhaps you know where you want to go but don’t know where to find the best lodging or attractions.

Army Community Services has designed binders overflowing with brochures, travel guides, maps, and other information about popular vacation destinations.

Each binder covers regions of Germany as well as surrounding countries including Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, France, Switzerland, and much more.

“I hope people go somewhere, pick up flyers, and (help) expand the library,” said Monika Goodman, the ACS information and referral manager who compiled the information into the binders.

If you’re looking to ski on a tight budget,

the Bavarian Forest near the Czech border offers competitive rates. Good deals on shopping can be found in the Czech Republic and in Poland.

Beach lovers are encouraged to visit northern Germany, and those interested in hiking and nature can find their paradise in southern Germany.

For a getaway from the cold winter months, Spain and Italy offer mild temperatures for sightseeing and relaxation.

The binders are now located in the Commons next to Rohr’s Cafe.

United Service Organizations, or USO, and Sato Travel are complements to the information corner, as they are housed in the same building, and any questions about traveling can be directed to them. These agencies can also assist in making travel plans and can give price estimates of vacation packages.

“Come and look, add to it, and make it a growing travel corner for the community,” said ACS Director Hal Snyder.

Dagger Brigade tops 1,000 reenlistments

by Sgt. 1st Class **KEITH LAIRD**
2nd BCT, 1st Infantry Division

One year into its 15-month deployment, Soldiers continue to reenlist with the 2nd “Dagger” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Iraq.

The brigade reenlisted its 1,000th Soldier Sept. 8: Spc. Matthew Adams, an infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.

Gen. David McKiernan, the commanding general of U.S. Army-Europe and 7th Army, was the reenlisting officer during a visit to Baghdad.

“Our mission as leaders, at every echelon, is to retain quality Soldiers to ensure that our Army is well-prepared for its enduring mission to fight and win our nation’s wars,” said Col. J.B. Burton, the Dagger Brigade commander.

“This achievement is a prideful one for this BCT and our Army,” he said. “It is reflective of the tremendous commitment of our Soldiers to ‘stay with the team,’ and it is also a great testament to leaders at every echelon who have created an environment within which Soldiers and their Family members are proud to serve.”

While supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom since August of 2006, the Soldiers of the Dagger Brigade continue to reenlist in record numbers. The brigade kicked off the fiscal year with a reenlistment ceremony Oct. 4, 2006, in Kuwait for 82 Soldiers who chose to stay “Army Strong.”

Since then, the Dagger Brigade has averaged 20 Soldiers reenlisting every week for the past

year. More than \$9 million have been given to Soldiers as bonuses for their commitment to further their military career.

Forty-three percent of reenlisting Dagger Soldiers chose to remain at their present duty station within the brigade for their next enlistment.

“That percentage shows that Soldiers are proud to be part of the Dagger Brigade,” said Master Sgt. Robert Staley, the brigade’s senior career counselor. “It is also an indicator of high morale within the units of this great brigade combat team.”

“Of the many reasons the vast majority of Soldiers reenlisted... (was) because of the stability that comes after the deployment,” said Sgt. 1st Class Cole Arnold, a brigade career counselor.

The Dagger Brigade also earned the “Commanding General’s First Strike Retention Award,” an award given by Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., the commanding general of the Multi-National Division – Baghdad and the 1st Cavalry Division, to the first brigade to meet their retention goal for the fiscal year.

The award this year is even more significant because there are 12 brigades working for the 1st Cavalry Division in Baghdad, instead of the standard six brigade-sized units assigned.

“Army-wide, our brigade was one of four brigade combat teams to reach 1,000 reenlistments this year,” said Staley, “That is a remarkable achievement and I take pride in saying that the Dagger Brigade has the finest retention team in the entire Army.”



Spc. Matthew Adams, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, has his photo taken with Gen. David McKiernan, the commanding general of U.S. Army-Europe and 7th Army, and Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa, the senior non-commissioned officer in USAREUR. Adams was the 1,000th Soldier to reenlist from the 2nd “Dagger” Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, during fiscal 2007.

‘This One’s For You’ event set tomorrow

Story and photo by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Bungee run, jousting, Velcro wall, videogames, a band, and food.

Sound like another Askren Manor Street Fest? It’s not, but it is just as much fun!

The event that features these new festivities is designed for Soldiers. Whether new to Schweinfurt or just returning home from downrange, “This One’s For You.”

That is what Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or B.O.S.S., is calling their new program taking place at Finney Fitness Center each month through February.

“We’re trying to create an atmosphere where it’s a lot of fun (in order) to show the Soldiers that you can have fun without substances... We also want to put a face to the agencies and break the stigma of receiving services,” said Gerry Warner, alcohol and drug control officer, at the first B.O.S.S. event.

Several agencies will participate in the monthly events, including Army Community Services; Social Work Services; Community Health; Family Life Chaplain; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; and the Army Substance Abuse Program.

“(The fun activities) provide a healthy way for Soldiers to cope with stress while exposing them to... mental health providers,” said Angela Hunter, health promotion coordinator. “We want to make sure when they come back from downrange that they are getting formal as well as informal



Pvt. David Hayward of 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment (left) and Spc. Chris White of 299th Forward Support Battalion race for the bean bags while strapped to the bungee run at the “This One is For You” event Sept. 20.

counseling.”

Pfc. Jonathan Conerly, former president of the B.O.S.S. Strong program, explained how inundated the Soldiers are with briefings and that he wanted to make the B.O.S.S. program approach communication of information differently.

“I fell asleep half the time in briefings,” said Conerly. “We want to educate the Soldiers as much as possible in a fun way,” he said.

While the Soldiers mill about and try their hand at the various competitive activities, professionals

from each agency engage them in conversation and explain what they have to offer.

The events aim to raise awareness about issues Soldiers need to deal with when they return from downrange. The setting is also designed to educate and offer services to help prevent combat stress.

The next B.O.S.S. sponsored reintegration event will take place tomorrow from 3 – 7 p.m. at Kessler Fitness Center.

B.O.S.S. requests that commanders release Soldiers for these events.

Domestic violence resources available throughout month

by **MARK HEETER**
Bavarian News

Some of the signs can be clearly visible. Others might be hidden behind a mask of normalcy, eating away at the victim from the inside.

Domestic violence awareness and prevention month continues through October, and the USAG Schweinfurt ACS is taking the lead on educating the community on the facts about domestic violence.

The theme of this year’s campaign is “Army Strong is Family Strong.” There is no excuse for domestic abuse,” according to Kurt King, ACS Family Advocacy Program manager.

“Family advocacy offers a spectrum of services. It uses an education model, rather than a treatment model,” said King, whose team will have displays, brochures, fliers, and pamphlets sprinkled across the USAG Schweinfurt footprint throughout the month, which began Oct. 3 at the Kessler bowling lanes.

But more than printed material, ACS, FAP, and the other community agencies are on standby to combat any domestic discord.

“We’ve always been in the background, and we’re always available, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Somebody’s on call all the time,” King said.

“The success of any program is built on the relationships, and in terms of domestic violence, it’s critical that

the agencies work together,” said Hal Snyder, ACS director, who cited cooperation with chaplains, social work services, the command group, law enforcement, legal assistance, and other agencies throughout the garrison.

Snyder also spoke of the potential effect of parental domestic violence on children – and the effort that goes into its prevention.

“I think it’s important to point out that any time there is conflict between parents, there are real impacts on children, and that any time we have the opportunity to remind folks that there’s help and assistance, that if it’s caught early, it doesn’t have to be a career-ender. Steps can be taken to improve the quality of life for all involved,” he said.

The “career-ender” fear prevents many victims from stepping forward for help, according to King. But for the past year or so, the Army has given victims the opportunity to file a restricted report.

“By restricted, we mean that the flow of information is restricted. It doesn’t alert the chain of command or law enforcement. It allows people to get the treatment they need without triggering an investigation,” he said.

For more information about domestic violence, look for displays and information throughout October, or call DSN 354-6435 or CIV 09721-96-6435.

Local youth assist with reintegration

Story and photo by **SANDRA WILSON**
Bavarian News

Schweinfurt’s Army Community Services is preparing reintegration packets for returning Soldiers to help ease the transition from downrange back into Family life.

In order to meet the goal of stuffing the 4,000 packets, ACS has enlisted the hands of community youth to fold, stuff, and stack.

Girl, Boy, and Cub Scouts gathered Oct. 3 in the newly renovated Yellow Ribbon Room to help out with the job.

The packets will contain a full sheet of coupons offering discounts for the theater, paintball, and arts and crafts as well as free bowling, batting cages, and bay usage at the Auto Skills Center.

“The purpose of the coupons is to get (the

Soldiers) out with their Families,” said Tyrann Baker of ACS.

In addition to the coupons, the packet includes redeployment care tips, including how to recognize stress symptoms, when to ask for outside help, and how to communicate with Family.

Information about the Deployment Support Group that meets each Wednesday at ACS is also in the packets to encourage Family members and Soldiers to come and express concerns.

On Oct. 3, the determined scouts stuffed each component into large envelopes, completing 400 packets in about 30 minutes.

“We’re having a competition with our table,” said 10-year-old Britni Mosher, laughing about the speed of their work. “They’re trying to make a tower (of booklets) that will fall on me.”

The scouts plan to continue stuffing packets until all 4,000 are completed.



From left, Girl Scouts Rebecca Davis, Britni Mosher, Amber Davis, and Janelle Bautista stuff booklets, coupons, and Deployment Support Group fliers for ACS’s reintegration packets for redeploying Soldiers.

Falcons Victory

Photos by Paula Guzman



(Left) The Vilseck Falcons' Jamal Grant goes airborne in a defensive move against Aviano Saints players during the Oct. 13 homecoming game at Falcon Field. The Falcons went on to win 44-6 against the Saints.

(Below) Falcons senior Ivan Griffen presents his father, JMTTC's Spc. Gerry Wilson, with a hug and a rose during halftime. The parents of senior football players were called down to the field and recognized during the homecoming halftime Oct. 13.



Pick up the Oct. 31 issue for the full coverage



Spirit was high before (left) and during (above) Vilseck's Oct. 13 homecoming game against the Aviano Saints.

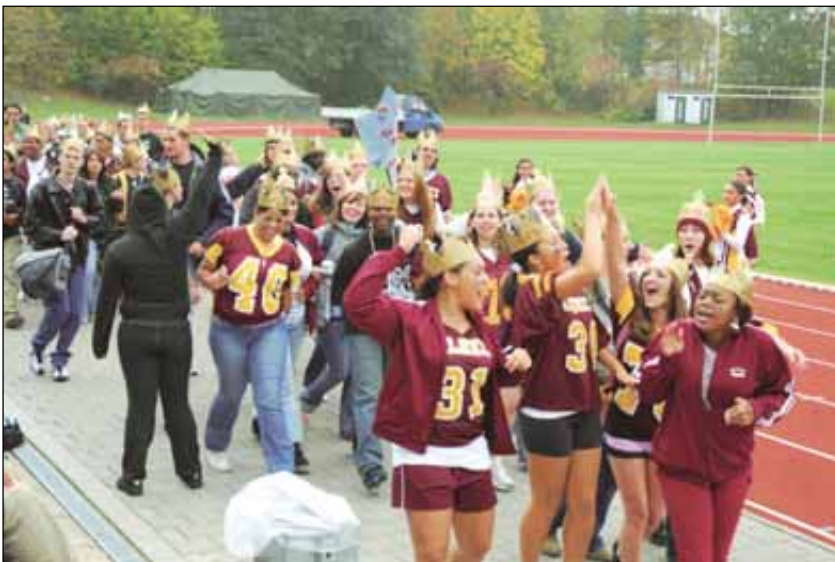


Elias Medina, 5, gets some one-on-one time with the Vilseck High School mascot during the homecoming game Oct. 13 at Falcon Field. Medina is the son of Kimberly Hernandez, a Spanish and language arts teacher at Vilseck High.

Falcon girls run tough during Powder Puff game



Vilseck High School females (above) played "powder puff" football Oct. 12, the day before homecoming at Falcon Field. The spirit-raising event was characterized by male students, like Miles "Gravy" Davis (right), who acted as cheerleaders. Lemmie Lee (middle right) president of the Vilseck High School student council, daughter of Maj. Samuel and Hannah Lee, Regimental Headquarters & Headquarters Team 4-2, puts on her war paint for the Oct. 12 pep rally. (Far right top) Lupe Guzman coaches the team. (Far right bottom) Vilseck seniors show spirit in preparation for the big game.



Cougar Victory

Photos by Jim Hughes



Shane Williams rams his way through Bison defenders on his way to a second quarter 7-yard touchdown run during the Cougar's homecoming game against Mannheim Oct. 13. The Cougars made it a happy homecoming by defeating the Bison 60-3 to remain undefeated in Division II football as South Conference champions. See next week's issue for results from Ansbach's next game against Div. II powerhouse Bitburg and a playoff preview.

Cougars skin Bison, 63-0, for a happy homecoming



Homecoming King Rancel Arrocha is escorted onto the field by his mom, Anayanfi Mills, during the homecoming royalty ceremony during halftime of Ansbach Middle/High School's homecoming game against Mannheim Oct. 13.



Storm Freeman, senior high school football player, gets ready to give his mom, Teresa Freeman, a kiss during the opening senior recognition ceremony prior to Ansbach Middle/High School's homecoming game against Mannheim Oct. 13.

Pick up the Oct. 31 issue for the full coverage



Kevin Stadler puts pressure on Mannheim quarterback Ben Spindler during the Cougar's homecoming game against Mannheim Oct. 13.

Jiamine Kimbell grabs a John Willis-Morris pass that would turn into a 56-yard touchdown on Ansbach's first play from scrimmage during the Cougar's homecoming game against Mannheim Oct. 13.

